

Disability Now

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Hospital schools hammered

London hospital schools, which teach disabled children from all over the UK, are facing staff cuts and even closure.

Wandsworth council is to close the Dragon school at St George's hospital, Tooting, next August. The school teaches 70 pupils a week, many of whom have disabilities such as cystic fibrosis, asthma and sickle cell anaemia.

Great Ormond Street hospital school in Bloomsbury and the Royal Free hospital school in Hampstead have been told by Camden council they will each lose two teachers.

The school at Maudsley hospital in Southwark has seen its teaching staff cut from 21 to 12.5 since 1990 and Guy's has also suffered.

Parents, teachers and governors fear that hundreds of disabled children's education is now at risk.

The National Standing Conference of Hospital Teachers, with over 400 members, is urging the Government to step in.

Chairperson Edith Dunmall said: "The best way to protect



Hard at work: Sidra Malik (left) and James Townsend get individual attention from Yvonne Hill, deputy head of the Great Ormond Street hospital school.

JAMIE FACER

schools would be to take them out of local authority control. They should be funded centrally by the Department of Education."

But the Government is refusing to intervene.

Peter Rees, from London, whose daughter was taught at

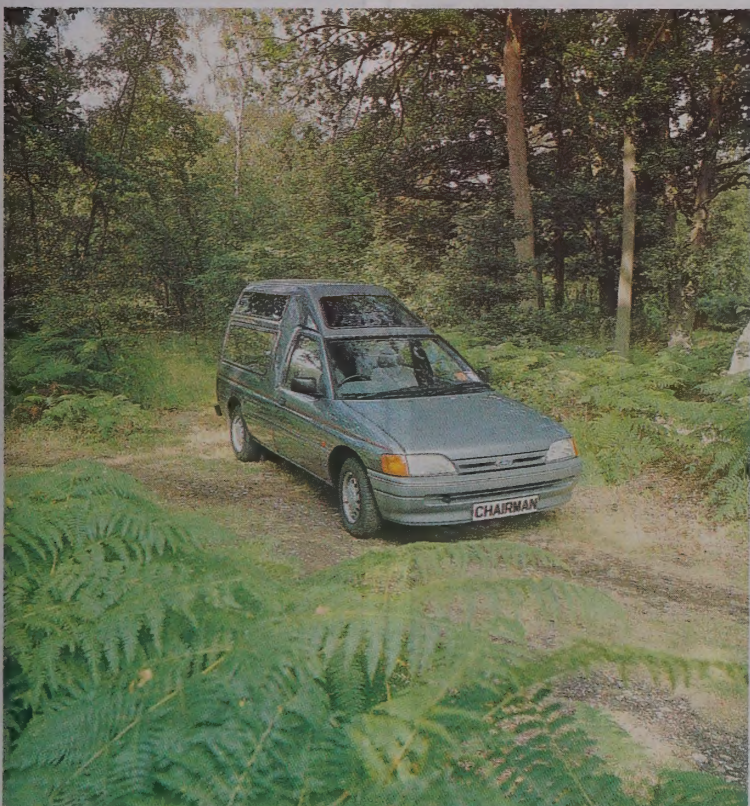
Great Ormond Street for three years before she died of leukaemia, said: "The teachers do a superb job but they are being treated appallingly. The schools provide an invaluable service and should be protected against cuts."

Edith Dunmall said: "The

problem is that current legislation gives local authorities the power to educate, but not a duty. Until councils do have a duty, schools will continue to be soft targets for cuts."

Pauline Shelley of Action for Sick Children (ASC), which

Continued on page 9



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Motability review proposed

Criticism about Motability, the charity that helps disabled people run a car or powered wheelchair, has reached the point where an independent review has been called for.

At the same time, a discussion document covering Motability and its associated companies and trusts, has been sent to the Charity Commission and the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

At the September meeting of the Joint Committee on Mobility for Disabled People, which

represents 29 organisations, an independent review was proposed by Jean Ashcroft, vice-chair of Arthritis Care's council.

As she explained to *DN*: "There is lack of understanding at Motability of the needs of people with arthritis. Motability needs some direction. I want to be positive, I want to improve the service on offer to people with disabilities. But it can't be done within the present set up."

Her proposal was supported by Joe Hennessy of the Muscu-

lar Dystrophy Group (who is also a governor of Motability). Morigue Cornwell, Banstead Mobility Centre director, and Douglas Campbell, chair of the Disabled Drivers' Association, spoke in favour.

According to Jean Ashcroft, Joe Hennessy, Douglas Campbell and others, an independent review was agreed in principle.

But chairman Peter Large (who is also a governor of Motability) disagrees. He says they agreed to collect more information about complaints

Continued on page 4

Surrey home saved from closure

Protests by disabled people and their relatives have saved a residential home in Surrey from closure.

The Summers, home to 37 physically disabled people, was to close next March because Surrey county council said it could not bring it up to registration standard (*DN*, July).

Now a campaign by Friends of the Summers and a 5,000 sig-

nature petition has persuaded the council to reconsider.

Social services director Graham Gatehouse said: "The Summers will continue to provide services and facilities will be improved through a programme of re-development which will involve the demolition and rebuilding of the home. We plan to run the home in partnership with a non-profit

making housing association and will involve residents in the planning of the building."

Peggy Cutler, spokesperson for the Friends, said: "We are pleased the home is safe but are concerned about who the council's partners will be and where residents will go while it is being rebuilt. We also fear the number of beds may be reduced."

£539m for care in the community

Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley's announcement last month that local authorities will get £539 million to implement community care in 1993-4 has had a cautious welcome from disability groups.

£399m will be transferred from Social Security Department budgets, with another £140m for start-up costs and administrative re-organisation. By 1996, local councils will have received £1.56 billion.

Half the £399m will be distributed on the basis of population, and half on residential and nursing home numbers. The 1993-4 money will be "ring-fenced", but this protection will decrease, ending in 1997.

Mrs Bottomley said 75 per cent of next year's money must be spent on care in the independent sector "to give further impetus to the development of a mixed economy of care." Local authorities would be ordered to honour people's choice of homes or care service.

Mencap's Brian McGuinness, thought Mrs Bottomley had done well. "The sum is more than we expected."

Mary Holland of the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation was glad the money would be ring-fenced but was worried it was only a temporary measure. The amount is "inadequate". "Thousands of people will not get the care they need."



Malta here we come. Five special needs trainees from the Brent Regeneration Agency are off for two week's training in Malta under a European-funded partnership scheme. Cllr Richard Buckley (right) and Malta coordinator Achille Stellman shake on it, watched (from left), by trainees Kathleen Cato, Helen Stellman and Babubai Patel, special needs manager Lawrence Weaver and coordinator Pat Harris.

Which? best buys

Disabled drivers looking for good, inexpensive car insurance will find a feature in the October *Which?* that includes a disabled driver.

David Burgess from Ipswich, who has spinal arthritis, sometimes uses a wheelchair. He drives a Peugeot 309GLX 1.6.

For Mr Burgess, the best quote was £160 (with no accidental damage excess) from Direct Line, and the worst, £441 (with no accidental dam-

age excess), from White Rose.

Which? also tested 18 emergency alarms for elderly people living at home.

Best buys among the speech alarms were the Care Link Premier, £180, the Homelink II £180 and the Piper Portal £159.

For an alarm with a built-in telephone, *Which?* recommended the Piper Premier £199 and the Vitalcall PET £230.

Disability ministers meet in Montreal

A Canadian initiative brought together disability ministers from 75 countries in Montreal last month.

It was the largest meeting of its kind, organised by the Minister of State responsible for the status of disabled people in Canada, Robert de Cotret.

His aim was to get agreement on a "framework for action at the international level on disability issues as a follow-up to the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons," and to discuss "a mechanism" for information exchange and collaboration among ministers.

The ministers agreed to set up an international working group - the 12-15 members have not been named yet - which would consult with disability groups.

Then they moved on to New York for a special two-day UN General Assembly meeting to mark the end of the UN Decade.

UK minister for disabled people Nicholas Scott spoke on behalf of the European Community. He said the Community, with its cross-border action to promote independent living and equal opportunities for disabled people, led the way in international co-operation. He mentioned projects such as the Horizon Initiative for employment and training exchanges and the multi-national, multi-lingual Handynet database.

Murray Holmes, chairman of the British Deaf Association and UK representative of the World Federation of the Deaf went to the UN with Mr Scott.

Speaking from New York, he told *DN*: "I was very confident listening to the speeches that the UN would make resolutions and recommendations. But there was only one resolution - for an International Day for Disabled People - and that was passed a week before! Now I am disheartened and disappointed."

"But it has been a magnificent opportunity for disabled people to stand on the platform and make statements. There's been no media coverage that I could find, though."

Wellcome to DN

DN's helpline, run by Lin Berwick, has had a reprieve, thanks to the Wellcome Foundation Ltd, which has given £4,800 to keep the helpline operating until December 1993.

Lin's funding ran out in September, so Wellcome's decision was very welcome to everyone at *DN*.

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Spastics Society



All knotted up: Edwina Currie MP trying the reverse hand exercise which gives an idea of what it's like when your hands don't obey your brain, as can happen with cerebral palsy. She opened a disability employment seminar in Derby in September, organised by the Derbyshire Committee for the Employment of Disabled People (Peter Broxham, right, is chairman) and Derbyshire PACT. Kevin Holmes of The Spastics Society had been talking about integrating people with cp into open employment and used the exercise. At a College of Occupational Therapists' conference on employment opportunities for disabled people in October, Ernest Shoobridge, head of disability support services at the Employment Service, said the double tick logo used by disability-aware employers will be re-launched this month.

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No freeze please

The Coalition on Young People and Social Security has written to Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, urging him not to freeze income support payments.

The plea comes amid Government warnings that public spending is to be curbed due to the recession (see page 7).

The Coalition of 27 organisations, including The Children's Society and Barnardos, claims freezing income support could mean a loss of £1.64 a week to disabled 16-year-olds.

Prize for Preston

Prime Minister John Major presented Preston Disablement Centre with one of 36 Citizen's Charter Mark seals of approval last month.

Mr Major praised the centre for setting up a Limb User Group.

ADAPT awards

Garage Arts and Media Centre in Walsall has won first place in the British Gas ADAPT Awards, for its facilities for disabled people.

Other awards went to London's Royal Albert Hall, the Yorkshire Mining Museum in Wakefield, Cornwall's Trerice house and Wallington library in Surrey.

Winners received a plaque from Lord Snowdon and £2,500 to be spent on further improvements.

Urgent research required into abuse

Urgent research is needed into the high incidence of sexual abuse among children with learning difficulties, says the British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (BASPCAN).

Chairperson Margaret Kennedy told the association's Scottish conference: "It is only recently that it has been realised

that children are not protected by disability. We know it is happening and want something done now."

Valerie Sinason, principal child psychotherapist at London's Tavistock Clinic, said many of the people with learning difficulties referred to the clinic with emotional problems have suffered abuse.

A new report by the mental

health charity, Mind, says there is growing evidence of sexual harassment and abuse within mental health services.

Stress on Women says a growing number of women no longer feel safe on wards or in day centres because they have been abused. It also claims women are being "fobbed off" with drugs and abusive medical therapies while the underlying cause

of their problems is ignored.

Mind wants a major review of mental health services to make them more appropriate for women and recommends that women with disabilities become involved in training of mental health professionals.

£1.50, Mind Publications, Kemp House, 1st Floor, 152-160 City Road, London EC1V 2NP.



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Britain's first cash card machine with special features for disabled customers was launched at the Gateshead branch of Northern Rock Building Society in October. The ICL series 7000 machine has bold colours and lettering, and the most important keys have been placed closer to hand for wheelchair users.

'No privacy' in homes

Many elderly people living in homes are denied privacy and control over money, says a report published by the charity Counsel and Care last month.

From Home to Home says: "To criticise a home from within may carry real risks. Usually the responsibility for investigating a complaint lies with the organisation criticised which has many subtle but powerful possibilities for exacting retribution."

The charity interviewed 200 people aged between 60 and 99 who were living in their own homes about what they would want from residential care.

These views were compared with the experiences of 100 residents in 39 private homes in London, and 15 in homes run by voluntary agencies.

The report recommends that homes pay more attention to the views of residents and design services to meet their needs and wishes.

Relatives and friends of elderly people in homes will have a chance to get together at a meeting in London on 14 November, organised by the Relatives Association (RA). One of the speakers will be tv journalist Mavis Nicholson.

From Home to a Home, Counsel and Care, £5, Twyman House, 16 Bonny Street, London NW1 9PG.

For more details of RA meeting contact Dorothy White, tel: 071-284 2541 or 081-201 9153.



Junior health minister Tim Yeo and Joyce Smith snip the ribbon in Salisbury.

SALISBURY JOURNAL NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Spastics Society celebrates 40th birthday

Boy George, Bob Geldof and Vic Reeves turned out to help celebrate The Spastics Society's 40th anniversary week from 28 September to 4 October.

Messrs George, Geldof and Reeves were among the stars of *Ruby Trax*, a special album which features top stars performing their favourite number one singles of the past 40 years.

The album was made in association with the *New Musical Express* and Radio One. Five pounds from every sale goes to the Society.

Other events in the week included:

*the launch of "40 for 40", which aims to set up 40 volunteer teams to support commu-

nity fundraisers

*a six-a-side county cricket competition at the Oval sponsored by Brooke Bond D

*a fundraising concert by the Ystrad Mynach male voice choir, organised by the Pontypridd and District Spastics Society

*a 40 mile fundraising cycle in Bristol

*the launch of a coupon offer by Brooke Bond D, who will donate five pence from every coupon collected from packets of Brooke Bond tea (see insert).

*and the opening of two purpose-built bungalows for eight severely disabled people in Salisbury by junior health minister Tim Yeo.

The opening was the culmination of a fund-raising drive by Mrs Joyce Smith, OBE, JP, chairman of the Wiltshire Challenge in partnership with Salisbury Health Authority and The Spastics Society.

Mr Yeo, who was director of the Society from 1983-85 said: "This highly successful partnership shows that organisations working together really can make a difference to disabled people's quality of life."

Ruby Trax is £19.99 on CD or £14.99 on cassette. In the shops or from NME Ruby Trax Offer, PO Box 146, Norwich NR3 3QN. Please make cheques payable to "NME Ruby Trax Offer".

Motability review proposed

Continued from page 1

and suggestions for the scope of a review. "It would be stupid to demand an independent review without having the full facts, and we did not agree to one".

As regards the discussion paper, the Charity Commission is exploring some of the issues with the trustees of the Motability charities, while the OFT is preparing detailed questions and considering whether any competition legislation is involved.

The paper was produced over 18 months by a retired civil engineer and wheelchair user, Ralph Irwin-Brown, who is concerned that Motability and the companies and trusts around it are not meeting the needs of disabled people as well as they could do.

He is concerned, for example, that Motability Finance Ltd seems to have a monopoly of the lease car market for disabled people in that it purchases vehicles at a discount, which are also exempt from car tax and VAT, a concession not extended to a disabled person buying a standard car.

Most cars provided through MFL on hire purchase or three-year leases are paid for by the disabled person through his mobility component and, usually, some advance payment. Mr Irwin-Brown is concerned that after three years the customer has nothing to show for the outlay. Unless they can buy the car through the dealership, they must start again.

He is also worried that so much funding goes on repeat advance payments rather than new ones.

He knows severely disabled people needing special vehicles and adaptations who have faced delays, been offered only a part grant or a cheaper and less satisfactory solution than the one requested.

Among his proposals, he calls for Motability and MFL to be reorganised so as to meet the needs of disabled people more effectively.

Motability's vice chairman Lord Sterling would not comment. The chairman, Lord Goodman, referred to Motability's "impeccable record of public service" and the considerable trouble it had taken to meet all Mr Irwin-Brown's concerns.

IN BRIEF

Want to be a journalist?

The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) is offering another three journalism scholarships (DN, February). The bursaries will go to disabled people who want to do a training course in broadcasting, photography or photo-journalism.

Applicants must have a minimum of two A Levels and two O Levels (one of these in English) or their equivalent.

RADAR will pay for fees, living expenses and additional expenses related to a trainee's disability.

Closing date 28 February, 1993. Ian Gibson, tel: 071-637 5400.

Council tax: get ready

Special arrangements for disabled people are outlined in two Government leaflets launched last month on the council tax, which replaces the poll tax from April 1993.

Free from local authorities or from the Department of Environment, Room N6/18, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB.

Awareness week a hit

Last month's Deaf Awareness Week from 26-31 October celebrated the contribution deaf people make to society.

Organised by the British Deaf Association and sponsored by Barclays Bank, the week's theme was "Making the invisible visible".

As well as fun events such as exhibitions and signing marathons, the week focussed on the work deaf people are doing in areas such as Aids prevention and new technology.

Competition winner

Katy Etherington, 19, from Iwer Heath, Buckinghamshire, has won first prize in the Sunrise Medical calendar competition (DN, May). As well as winning £250, Katy's design, "Poppy Field with Corn" will go on the cover. The designs of the six runners-up, who each get £100, will go inside.

Free, Moira Buchanan, tel: (0494) 672492.

Corrections

The shot putter shown in last month's DN was Ernie Guild, not Michael Walker.

The group quoted in the firefighters story in September's DN should have read "the National Register of Firefighters with Diabetes" (NRFD).

We would like to make it clear that to be eligible for the lower rate of the Disability Living Allowance care component you must either need help for part of the day, or, if you are over 16, help to prepare and cook a main meal. (Benefits, DN, September).

Can't get a job? Got an idea?

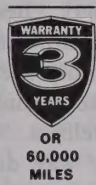
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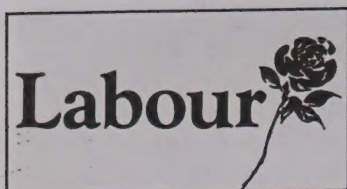
high-performance sports coupes. Power steering is fitted as standard on many models and automatic transmission is available as an option on most vehicles in the range. And as well as Nissan's outstanding reputation for reliability and economy, every new vehicle comes with a 3 year/60,000 mile manufacturer's warranty and 24 hour RAC Roadside Assistance.

To find out more about the Nissan Motability scheme, call 0800 777 200 for the address of your nearest Authorised Dealer.



Motability





Calls are growing for a Labour Disability Group to be formed following the party's lacklustre performance on disability issues at this year's conference.

Unlike the Tories and Liberal Democrats, Labour has no separate disability group.

Last year, conference made forthright calls for anti-discrimination laws and a comprehensive disability income.

This year, resolutions calling for MP's support on disability issues (from the National League of the Blind and Disabled of Great Britain and Ireland) and watchdogs for people in residential homes, were left out of the final timetable.

Agenda for Change, the party's statement of beliefs written for the conference, did mention disabled people, committing it to "breaking down the barriers of prejudice that ... often place people with disabilities outside the community and restrict their quality of life".

Labour leader John Smith spoke of the party's Special Commission on Social Justice, as "the first serious attempt since Beveridge to assess need and find new ways of dealing with our deep social problems".

David Blunkett got a warm reception for his first confer-

Demand for disability group grows

ence speech as the new shadow secretary of state for health. But, despite being disabled himself, the words "disabled people" were not heard once.

Instead, Mr Blunkett made a direct link between a low standard of living and poor health. "In every area of our life, growing inequality and government policy on homes and jobs, on income and the environment are worsening our health and quality of life - not just for the most deprived but for all of us."

Katherine F Roden from Wentworth constituency Labour party (CLP) in South Yorkshire thought he should have mentioned disability. "He ought to know more than anyone what it's like. There should be somebody who's willing to stand up and let themselves be counted for disabled people."

Gwen Roberts from Birkenhead agreed: "If Alf Morris had been up there he would have made his voice known."

Gwynfa Moore of Brecon, Powys, did not feel the conference organisers were entirely to blame for the lack of emphasis on disability. "Surely it's up to the constituencies [disabled people] belong to to make sure they get a resolution into conference on disabled people."

Disability issues did better in the transport debate, thanks to Hampstead and Highgate CLP whose chair is Roger Robinson, director of Artsline, the arts access charity. Its amendment to the motion by the Transport and Salaried Staff Association (TSSA) committed the party to campaign for legisla-

tion to make all public transport accessible.

Richard Rosser of the TSSA warned that cost-cutting plans such as reducing staff at sta-

Labour to have a disability group to lobby the leadership.

Michael Barrett, general secretary of the NLBD believes there is a "vital need" for a

might go national, hopefully."

Barry Sheerman, party spokesperson on disabled people's rights, said: "If there is a kind of section which can be



Katherine F Roden, Gwen Roberts and Stan Roden.

tions would hit disabled people. Railway stations would become like "bus stops - unstaffed for part of the day and particularly in the evenings". As a result, a more hostile environment would be created which would deter disabled people from travelling by rail.

The TSSA has launched an anti-privatisation campaign.

Special needs also got a mention in the education debate, with one motion calling for a campaign to ensure proper provision was made for children with special needs.

Nevertheless, the lack of motions concentrating solely on disability led to calls for

group. He also wants to get disability groups within trade unions working together.

Katherine Roden said: "There should be a disability section. If women can have their section ... and if black people can have their section and gays and lesbians can have their section, why can't the disabled?"

Gwynfa Moore had some reservations about sections, fearing it could mean segregation. However, she is part of a four-strong disability group in the Labour Party Wales which is working well and advises the party on issues like access. "If we can start it off locally it

used in order to accelerate the voice and concerns of disabled people I'm not against it. But I want to know what disabled people think about it."

Spastics Society head of campaigns Brian Lamb said the danger of a disability section is that it might keep disability issues on the sidelines. "But it may be the only way disabled people can initially get their agenda on to the Labour party's."

Are you a Labour member in favour of starting a group? Please write to Barry Sheerman MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Alison Rowat reports from Labour's conference in Blackpool and the Tories' in Brighton

Blackpool bad for access

Access at Blackpool Winter Gardens was condemned by Labour delegates.

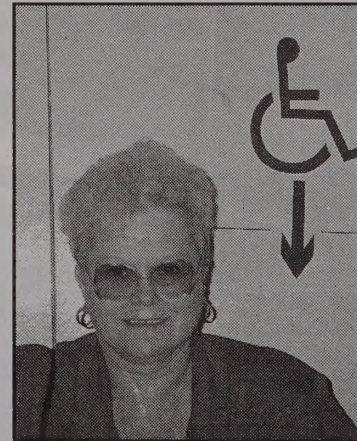
Shadow health secretary David Blunkett was barred from a taxi after the driver refused to take Mr Blunkett's guide dog Offa. The driver later said he had an allergy to animals.

It was the first time at conference for Katherine Roden and her husband Stan, a wheelchair user. On one occasion, they had to have a police escort to use the lift. "They think all wheelchair users are terrorists," Mr Roden laughed.

Mr Roden also had to go up the stairs to their hotel on his backside, despite telling the constituency secretary who booked it that he was a wheelchair user.

"I shall complain. Not for myself, because I don't think I shall have the chance again to come to conference, but for any other disabled members. You never know when you're going to get new members that are wheelchair bound, and we've got to be prepared to look after them."

Lesley Broomhead from Bristol North West CLP was pleased to see some improvements from the last Blackpool conference. This year it was equal access for all whereas before wheelchair users like Lesley had to use the "tradesmen's entrance". There was also



Mrs Moore and those signs.

a screened area for wheelchair users to be body-searched when they went through security checks.

On the down side, though, sign posting was "absolutely atrocious". It was difficult to

find the lifts, and she had to sit away from the rest of her delegation. Also, the rostrum now had a ramp but the lectern was still standard height so any wheelchair user who wanted to speak would have been hidden.

"They have started to think about the issues but because they are able-bodied, they have only half thought it through."

Gwynfa Moore praised police and security staff, but thought the paper signs used to denote access were "degrading". "They are obviously put there for the conference. It makes me wonder what they do when conference isn't on."

There were signers in the hall but live tv coverage - apart from the leader's speech - was not signed, despite lobbying by deaf people's organisations.

As Labour delegates did last year, disabled Conservatives praised the Brighton Conference Centre. Robert Miller from Sutton Coldfield said: "Access here has been absolutely superb. The only criticism I would have is that the lift doors close a bit too quickly."

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CONSERVATIVE

At the Tories gathering in Brighton, Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley gave cold comfort to people on benefits by declaring a curb on public spending. But he insisted that disabled and elderly people had nothing to worry about.

"The chill wind of recession is still hitting many homes," he said. "They depend on us for support. They will receive it. But to escape recession we must curb public spending, including social security."

He also announced a £500 million crackdown on fraud. Among those he declared war on were New Age travellers who were "spongers descending like locusts".

But he insisted: "We are the friend of the pensioners. Their incomes have risen five times as fast as under Labour. We are the friend of the sick and disabled giving five times as many mobility and attendance benefits."

"While toughening up on fraud, I want to make claiming easier for those in real need. The honest majority."

After the speech, Mr Lilley would not comment on how public spending was to be curbed, or on claims that invalidity benefit was to be frozen or only partially uprated next April.

A large part of his speech was devoted to criticising European interference in British affairs. Asked whether many disabled people might be disappointed at this, Minister for Disabled People Nicholas Scott replied:

Lilley takes on 'scroungers'

"Disabled people will judge us by our actions rather than words. You've only got to look at the pattern of expenditure on the long-term sick and disabled under this Government to see that we have put our money where our mouth is."

Education Secretary John Patten made no mention of children with special needs in his speech. He did declare, "We believe in greater choice and diversity, in ensuring that every child is equipped for adult life."

Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley announced that there would be no "Charter-free

times, and the services provided by family doctors and community nursing services. And a new "quality initiative" would spread good practice.

She had a message for councillors on community care: "This is a great opportunity. We place our trust in you. The vulnerable put their faith in you. By showing a clear and strong political lead, you will make community care work."

It was left to a Barbara Harrison of Derbyshire to swing the transport debate round to disabled people. Calling for more support for community trans-

port, Mrs Harrison said: "The freedom and independence it offers is vital to the independence and well-being of users and the whole community."

"Community transport schemes are always going to be necessary and it should be the duty of the community to protect the service."

As a result of Mrs Harrison's plea, Transport Secretary John MacGregor broke off from his prepared speech to praise the "tremendous contribution" of community transport. Apart from that, he made no mention of making all public transport accessible.

With no end in sight to the recession, Employment Secretary Gillian Shephard told delegates: "When we have overcome today's problems, as we shall, we will have built a Britain ... where no one is denied a job because they are disabled or because of their sex, their age or the colour of their skin."

Minister for Public Services and Science William Waldegrave said the Citizen's Charter was about making "the user of the service feel king again."

There was a lot still to do. "Do you know that you may have to contact eight different offices if you are unemployed and disabled to get all the benefits you have a right to? No-one will believe that a few years after Peter Lilley and Gillian Shephard have worked through the new one-stop benefit offices they are developing."

Disabled delegates enjoyed the conference. But, just like the Labour party delegates and Oliver Twist, they wanted more.

Charlotte Joy Thorne from Lutterworth in Leicestershire said: "I do feel that we could be

more acknowledged, even if it's to say how delighted they are to see us here. Heseltine came up to me after his speech, shook my hand and said 'I'm happy to see you here'. That was nice."

Her husband William thought the low focus on disability had to be put in context. "The priority that the Government has



Mr and Mrs Thorne

at the moment is sink or swim. If we sink there will be no priorities for anybody, but if we swim and ideas about improving the prosperity of the country succeed, then that's the time to put our cases before them."

"It's very difficult to get a room full of able people interested in disability," said Malcolm Dunlop, director of the Conservative Disability Group. "People get interested in disability when disability strikes them, either through their own misfortune or a friend or a member of the family."

Peter Smith from Rugby is a Conservative still waiting for anti-discrimination legislation. Will his wait ever end? "With people like myself and others with similar views things are slowly changing but it doesn't happen overnight."



Peter Smith: still waiting for anti-discrimination laws

zones" in the health service. She extended the Patient's Charter to cover out-patient waiting

port, Mrs Harrison said: "The freedom and independence it offers is vital to the indepen-

Fringe shows the way to go

Disability groups waged an impressive campaign to win the hearts and minds of delegates on the conference fringe.

Challenge, the campaign for people with multiple disabilities, told MPs and delegates that over half of community care plans are not taking into account people with multiple disabilities.

The Spastics Society and the National Union of Teachers had big turn-outs to hear the findings of their report on the costs of integration (DN, October).

The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation and Mencap joined forces to highlight housing shortages. Mencap has calculated (from community care plans) that at least 4,000 people a year for the next five years will have to be housed in the community as institutions close and parents get older.

Among the recommendations made were that councils should do thorough research into housing needs, disabled people who wanted to leave home or institutional care should get advice, training, choice and support,

and that the law should ensure that all new and rehabilitated houses are built to a basic standard of accessibility and adaptability.

Disability Alliance's meeting asked why more disabled people were not involved in politics.

"Perhaps some of the persuasion used by the disability movement has been too soft," Newport West Labour MP Paul Flynn suggested. One idea he put forward was for disabled people to converge *en masse* on MP's surgeries.

Richard Wood, director of the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People said discrimination in politics had to be put in the context of a wider discrimination in every area of disabled people's lives.

Direct action by disabled people was the only way. "We can't be passive about this. We have got to force the agenda."

Sally Witcher of Disability Alliance asked why, when many agreed about the need for anti-discrimination legislation, etc, nothing is done. Simply blaming the Government wasn't the

answer. "There are a lot of disabled people who believe the stereotypes of disability they see in the media ... that they actually are burdens on society." They had to recognise that disability was society's problem.

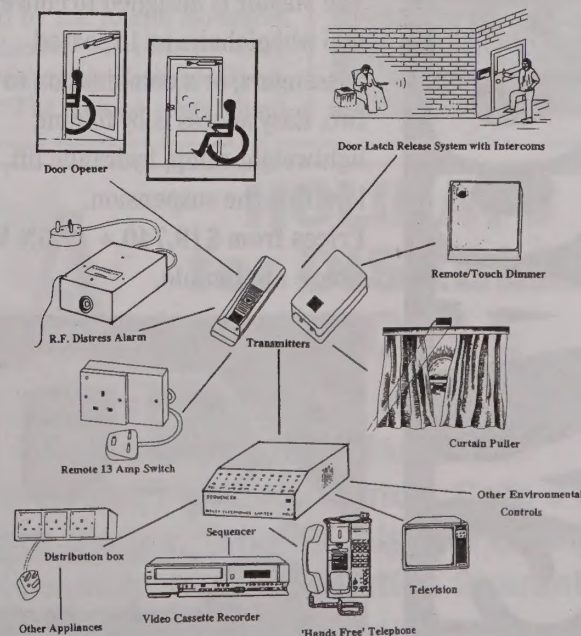
"Until disabled people themselves recognise that disability is a political issue we are not going to get anti-discrimination legislation and a comprehensive disability income scheme. Until that recognition is there disabled people are always going to be politically disabled."

At the Conservative Disability Group meeting, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health Tim Yeo put some flesh on the Government's community care plans, saying that he hoped local authorities would be able to force down prices for contracting.

Other meetings included ones by the Carers National Association on listening to carers and helping them speak out, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and Unity Trust Bank MSF on "Community care - who cares?"

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Keeping an open mind on epilepsy

Scientists have developed a revolutionary technique that will improve the treatment of epilepsy by enabling doctors to look inside a person's brain.

Researchers at the National Society for Epilepsy (NSE) are using magnetic resonance scanning to take a series of snap-

shots of the brain.

Magnetic resonance scanning uses radio waves to produce a detailed three-dimensional image of the brain's internal structure on a computer screen.

Doctors can then use the computer to strip away the inside layers of the brain to try and find the cause of someone's seizures.

The technique was unveiled in September at the launch of the NSE's Snapshot Appeal, which aims to raise £3 million to establish the world's first

magnetic resonance unit designed for epilepsy treatment and research.

Dr Simon Shovron, consultant neurologist and medical director of the NSE, said: "The new technique is vital for the treatment of epilepsy as it will enable us to look at the anatomical features of the brain in minute detail, which no other method can even approach."

"This will make it easier for us to select people for surgery and help GPs choose the most

effective drugs to control their patient's seizures."

Mouse with CF bred in laboratory

Researchers have bred a strain of mouse that will speed up research into new treatments for cystic fibrosis (CF), an inherited condition affecting 6,000 British people.

Dr David Porteous and Dr John Dorin, from the Medical Research Council's Human Genetics Unit in Edinburgh, used gene targeting to create a mouse exhibiting the same symptoms of CF as humans.

The Edinburgh team, funded by the Cystic Fibrosis Trust (CFT) and the Agricultural and Food Research Council, inserted a modified cystic fibrosis gene into mice embryo cells. The cells were then re-implanted into female mice. They subsequently produced offspring with CF.

Dr Porteous said the mice are a crucial tool for testing treatments for CF, from drugs to gene transplants.

Martin Scott of the CFT said: "There is a great deal of potential in this as it gives researchers a model for testing drugs that they never had before."

Muscles shocked into action

Scientists are to start testing a device that they hope will enable people with spinal injuries to walk short distances.

Researchers at Odstock hospital, Salisbury, University College hospital, London, and Stanmore's Royal National Orthopaedic hospital are developing a neuromuscular stimulation device that is implanted inside the body.

At the flick of a switch, electrodes attached to the nerves of the spinal cord will activate an electronic impulse, artificially stimulating the muscles to make movement possible.

Research team leader, Dr Ian Swain, said a similar device is already being used to enable people who have had a stroke to move partly paralysed limbs.

"Most of our work to date has been to help people with spinal injuries to stand up and reach for objects on shelves. It will take three or four years to develop a device that will enable them to walk."

He stressed that even if the device is successful, people will not be able to do away with their wheelchairs. "It would help them to get from the car to the house, but wheelchairs would remain their main means of getting around."

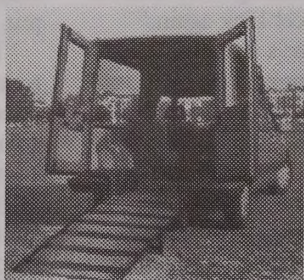
Stephen Bradshaw, director of the Spinal Injuries Association, said: "This is useful research but it does not offer a cure and we hope people will not get carried away by any hype surrounding this work."

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LEAs 'not meeting special needs'

Hundreds of disabled children are suffering because local authorities are not providing them with statements of special educational need, say two new reports.

The Spastics Society surveyed 240 families of children with cerebral palsy*. In only 10.7 per cent of cases were assessments of special educational need completed within six months, as recommended by the Government. In more than half the cases, the process took more than two years.

The Society wants assessments and statements to be issued independently of local authorities; a statutory six-month time limit on assess-

ments; an enhanced role for parents; a protected budget; an independent inspectorate to monitor statementing and how money is spent; and a "facilitator" in each area to help parents get more involved.

Spastics Society chairman Anthony Hewson said: "Our survey shows the human cost of the failure of the system to help children with disabilities. Urgent reform is needed."

The Centre for Studies on Integration in Education (CSIE) report* says an increasing number of local education authorities (LEAs) are failing to complete proper assessments and statements under the 1981 Education Act before segregat-

ing children in special schools. In 15 LEAs, between 15 per cent and 50 per cent of special school pupils were without a statement in January 1991.

The CSIE said: "The Government has promised improvements to the 1981 Education Act's assessment and statementing process, but if LEAs fail to draw up statements, then the Government's reforms will be of little help to children who have already slipped through the system."

*A Hard Act to Follow, £4.95, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

*Free, CSIE, 415 Edgware Road, London NW2 6NB.

Transport study to start next year

A unique accessible transport study is to start in Richmond, London, early next year.

The study, carried out by the Department of Transport, the London Committee on Accessible Transport (LCAT) and Richmond Council, aims to develop a "model strategy" for other London boroughs.

It will assess accessible transport needs within the borough by looking at the number of accessible vehicles, how they are

used and the quality of services they provide. The findings will be released at the end of 1993.

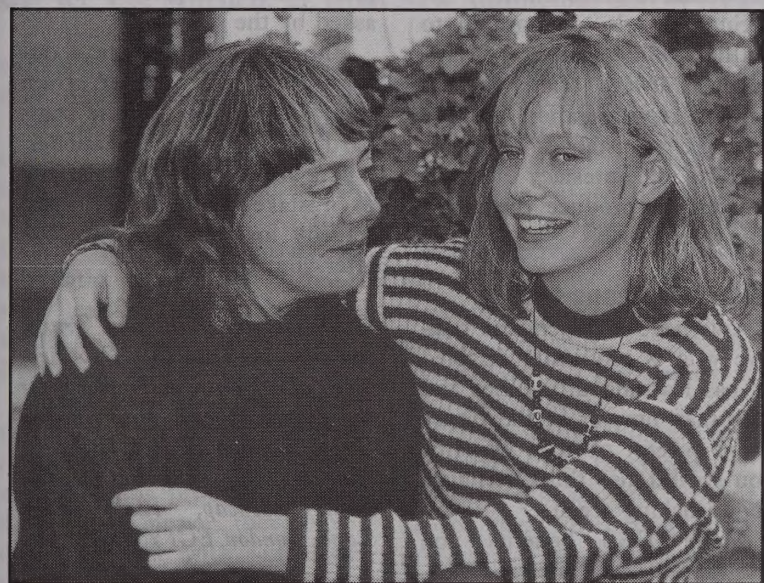
Richmond councillor David Cornwall, who is a member of LCAT said: "We aim to find out how better use can be made of accessible vehicles, many of which are bought in a random fashion and then used infrequently."

*Disabled passengers need better designed buses, shorter wait-

ing times and more staff to assist them at rail and underground stations, says a new report by the Cranfield Institute of Technology's Centre for Logistics and Transportation.

Mobility in London* says disabled people with limited access to transport make only 20 per cent of the journeys made by able-bodied pensioners.

* Contact Philip Oxley, tel: (0234) 754321.



Judy Watson (far left), and daughter Hazel, celebrate winning the Frink Award in October. The award honours the achievements of women who are visually impaired or those who work with visually impaired people. Judy is head of English at Broadoak Comprehensive in Weston-Super-Mare (DN, April 1991). She won £1,000 and a winged eagle statue by Dame Elizabeth Frink. The runners-up, who get gold bracelets, were computer programmer Madeleine Close from Southampton and champion waterskier Janet Salt from Stockport.

Hospital schools hammered

Continued from page 1

campaigns for improvements in hospital childcare, said: "We are very concerned that so many national hospital schools are facing cuts, because it is disabled children who spend a long time in hospital who will be most affected."

Tristan Benac is head teacher of Great Ormond Street hospital school, which teaches about 3,000 children a year. More than half of the children have a physical disability, psychiatric problems or learning difficulties.

He said: "It is very distressing. The school lost five teachers last year and these new cuts will reduce our teaching staff to ten."

"The cuts mean we are having to say no to short-stay chil-

dren and patients under five. This is not just a London problem, it's a national one. Unless these cuts stop, hospital schools will become a thing of the past."

Nighat Malik, from Oxford, whose nine-year-old daughter Sidra has lupus and has been taught in hospital for two years, said: "The facilities here are first class and the teachers excellent. When Sidra could not move from her bed, they came to her. She likes the teachers and looks forward to her work."

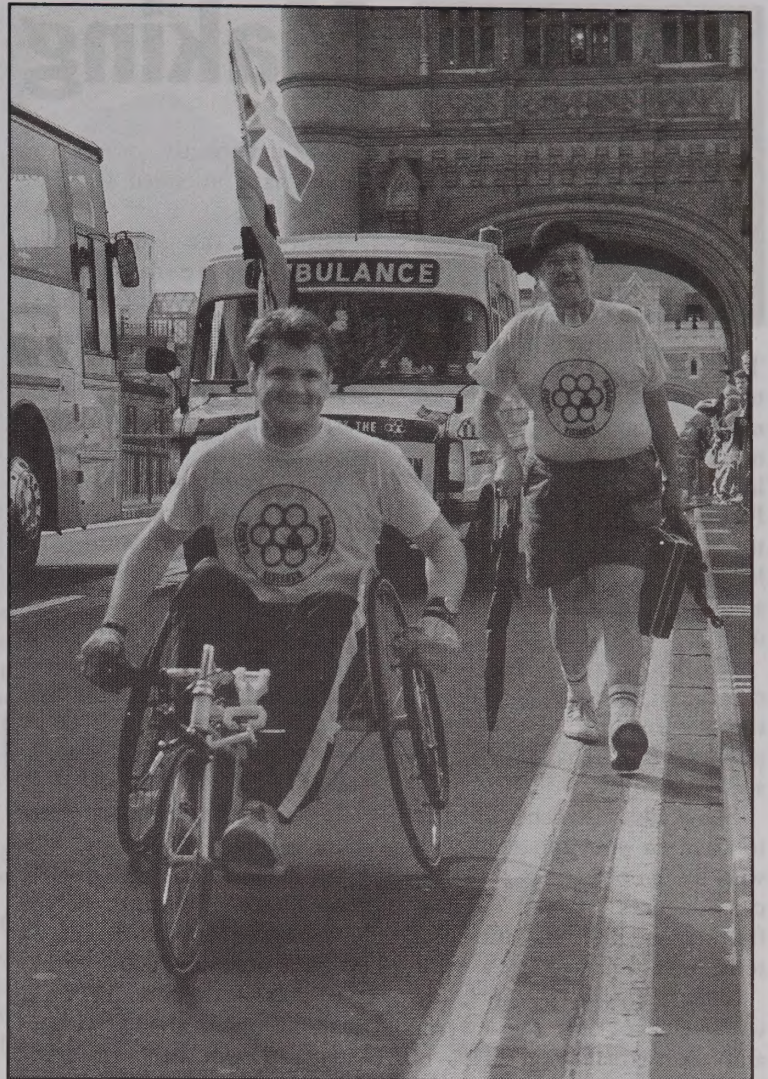
Adrienne Stanhill from Essex, whose seven-year-old son has been in hospital for three months since his kidneys failed, said: "Mark is in isolation but gets tuition every day, but we fear this might be reduced if the cuts go ahead."

A Camden Council spokesperson said: "We are hav-

ing to make these staff reductions because we must cut our spending by £25 million to meet Government targets. We are not in a position to fund the schools as generously as the Inner London Education Authority used to."

A Wandsworth council spokesperson said: "The school is being closed because it is difficult for it to meet the requirements of the national curriculum. The council's integrated support service will arrange tuition for children who would have been taught at the school."

A Department for Education spokesperson said: "Hospital school staffing levels are decided by local education authorities, not the Department for Education, and this is unlikely to change."



Eric Leclezio (left) and Ted Rayner returned to London in September from their 2,700 mile hike round Britain's coastline to raise money for the Cancer Research Campaign (DN, April). Mr Leclezio and Mr Rayner, who have both recovered from cancer, have raised over £40,000 so far.

Education needed now

Teachers, employers, people in charge of assessing benefit claims and the public need to be educated about arthritis and the needs of young people who have it, says a new report. Over a million people under 45 are estimated to have arthritis.

Based on the views of 40 young people, *The Road towards Independence* says other barriers, such as inaccessible environments, could also be overcome.

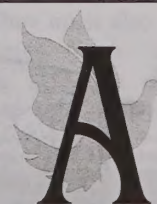
The report was commissioned by Arthritis Care and funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Arthritis Care chief executive Richard Gutch said: "The unique thing about

this research is that, for the first time, young people with arthritis have been given the chance to express their feelings and views."

£7.50, John Restorick, tel: 071-916 1500.

IS THIS YOU?

Would S Mark of Peterborough, whose letter in the October DN said he could not afford a second-hand typewriter, please contact *Disability Now* on 071-636 5020. Another of our readers has kindly offered a typewriter.



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The Law Society's "Make a Will Week", 12-18 October, made many people wonder if they should. Peter Chadwick helps you decide.

The Law Society, the solicitors' professional body, was last month encouraging people to make a will. There was a similar campaign in Scotland. Firms offering wills through the post advertise regularly in local and national newspapers and even high street banks offer a will-drafting service.

All this energy is not being expended for purely philanthropic reasons. Those who prepare wills charge for the service.

Some advertisements attempt to frighten you into making a will by emphasising the dire consequences which follow from dying intestate (the legal term for not having left a will).

They suggest that in these circumstances only the lawyers and the taxman gain. This is misleading.

Nevertheless, it is good advice to consider making a will.

What if I don't make a will?

If you die without leaving a will then your estate (ie everything you own - home, clothes, bank accounts, etc) is distributed according to the law.

As the law is not always the ass that some would have us believe, this may very well

Making a will: the pros and cons

result in exactly what you would have intended had you made a will.

Basically, the law provides that if you are married and your spouse survives you, he or she will receive the first £75,000 if you have children, or the first £125,000 if you do not, as well as all your personal possessions.

Your spouse will also have the right to receive the income from half of the rest of your estate (eg interest on bank accounts, etc).

The remainder of your estate will pass either to your children equally or, if you have no children, to your parents, if either survives, or your brothers and sisters.

If you are not married, or are divorced or a widow or widower, your estate will pass to your children equally, if you have any, or to your parents or brothers or sisters if you don't.

If you have none of these relations, then dying without leaving a will becomes more complicated. In certain very extreme, and rare, cases where no blood relatives can be traced, the estate can pass to the Crown or the Duchy of Lancaster or the Duchy of Cornwall.

Where your estate amounts to less than £75,000 if you have children, or £125,000 if you don't, your surviving spouse is entitled to everything. These figures do not usually include the value of a jointly-owned

house, because it normally passes on the death of one joint-owner directly to the surviving one. (As the figures are revised from time to time, get full, up-to-date advice at the time of making a will.)

So, just because you fail to

with things other than financial matters.

One important consideration for those with children under 18 is the appointment of a testamentary guardian - the person or persons you wish to care for your children if you die

capital is below the entitlement limit would payment of benefits and allowances resume.

There are clauses which you can put in your will to try to avoid this happening. Mencap offers specialist advice.

Where to go

People with disabilities, and those who care for them, may be unable to visit a solicitor or bank, in which case a wills-by-post service can be convenient in the simplest of circumstances. But there is no substitute for personal advice from a professionally qualified person.

Do not assume that your local solicitor's office is inaccessible to wheelchairs. But if it is, a telephone call may be able to secure a visit to you at home or in hospital.

Ask about costs. Solicitors' charges may not be as high as you expect, averaging £40-£60 plus VAT for a pair of wills; possibly more in London or the South-East.

If you are on low income and have little capital, you may be eligible for free advice and assistance under the Legal Aid Green Form Scheme. Telephone your solicitor or check with your local citizens' advice bureau (see telephone directory) for solicitors operating the scheme. The "means-test" is just some simple questions asked by the solicitor.

Finally, never attempt a do-it-yourself will, either from scratch or on one of the standard forms from a stationer. There are too many pitfalls and a mistake could spell real tragedy for those who are left after your death.



Mrs Dinah Heath from London made her will using a wills-by-post service. The Family Will Service has a free helpline on 081-905 1990.

make a will, it does not follow that all your money goes to the taxman, or that cousin Jack's 14 nephews and nieces in Australia will have a share in your estate as well as your husband or wife.

When a will is a must

There are some situations, though, in which it can be very important indeed that you make a will. A will may deal

while they are under 18.

If you are living with someone to whom you are not legally married, or you are separated but not divorced, or you have dependants who are not your own natural or legally adopted children, then it is also important to make a will.

Such people are entitled to nothing under intestacy law, which is always strictly applied without consideration of any special circumstances.

Here, the intestacy laws are unlikely to produce the result you would wish.

Allow for means-testing

If you have a dependent relative who is physically disabled or has learning difficulties and who may now or in the future be in receipt of state benefits, you should also think seriously about making a will.

Many DSS benefits and allowances are means-tested. Entitlement may be affected if too much capital is inherited. The inheritance would have to be used first to meet the cost of care and only when the level of

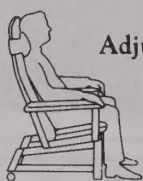
Guidelines for Wills and Trusts, free from the Disability Law Service (also known as Network for the Handicapped), 16 Princeton Street, London WC1R 4BB.

Marion Young, Legacies Department, Mencap, 123 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0RT.

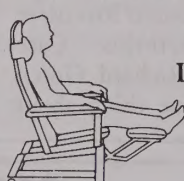
Peter Chadwick is a solicitor in private practice in Coalville, Leicestershire. He is a member of the Law Society's Group For Solicitors With Disabilities.

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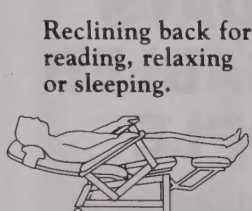
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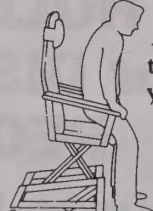
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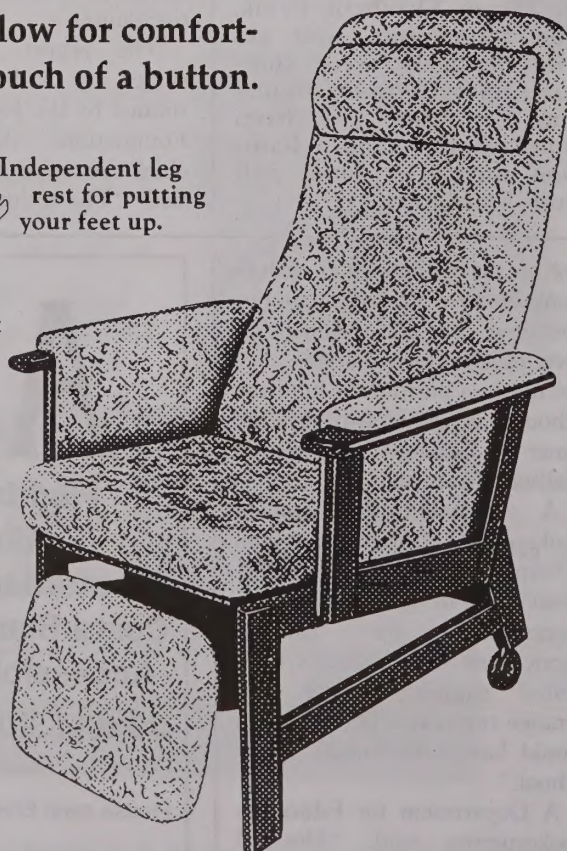
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Division of the Psychiatry of Disability Department of Mental Health Sciences, St George's Hospital Medical School

Physical Disability, Mental Health, and Rehabilitation

A one-day multi-disciplinary conference

This conference is intended to be multi-disciplinary and will involve speakers from all areas of rehabilitation with an emphasis on the mental health needs of those with a physical disability. Much of the conference will focus on whether the person with a physical disability is getting the services they need both within community and hospital settings. A number of leading agencies representing those with particular conditions or illnesses will be involved in the conference.

The conference is suitable for all those involved in the management or treatment of those with a physical disability and those having a physical disability and their relatives.

Wednesday 3rd March 1993
Price: £55

Programmes and application forms available from:
Philippa Weitz, The Conference Unit, Department of Mental Health Sciences, St. George's Hospital Medical School, Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE. Tel: 081-672 9944 Ext. 55534.

What price integration?

Alix Ramsay reports on the Madrid Games

As the Paralympic Games closed in Barcelona with a blaze of fireworks, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) flag moved to Madrid for the opening of the games for athletes with learning difficulties.

Although the Madrid event was not part of the Paralympics proper, it was the first time the athletes had competed under the auspices of the IPC's games. It was to be a show piece tournament, intended to win full integration for the Atlanta Paralympics in 1996.

Unfortunately it served only

Paralympic programme."

The problem for INASFMH is that, by their own admission, they cannot fulfil the IPC requirements.

The Paralympics is run on a complex classification system to ensure fair competition. It is a sports-specific analysis, monitoring how an athlete's physical disability affects his sporting prowess in his chosen discipline. Thus, a single leg amputee archer will be classed differently to a single leg amputee sprinter.

INASFMH cannot solve the classification problem.

"We don't see any way of

runner.

In Madrid, the athletes could not compete on that level.

If an athlete cannot comprehend the concepts of tactics, strategy, psychology, pacing, training and all that goes with professional sport, they cannot compete at the top level.

And if they can comprehend these elements and are physically able bodied, as the majority of Madrid athletes were, then, under the sports-specific classification favoured by the IPC, they have no place in an event for the disabled, whatever the disability.

Drug testing was another



Gold medallist in the 100m and 200m at Madrid, Kenny Colaine, 22, from Wembley, London. He also won a silver in the 4 x 100m relay.

ELEANOR BENTALL



Get set: Lee Mitchell, 23, from New Addington, Surrey (centre) competing in the shot put.

to highlight the huge problems that could prevent integration.

Before the Madrid Games opened, Bob Steadward, president of the IPC, stated in no uncertain terms what INASFMH, the organisers of international sport for those with learning difficulties, had to do to become a part of the Paralympic games.

"They must meet our criteria," Steadward said. "These include a classification system, a drug testing programme, and they must prove they have quality events with sufficient numbers of athletes and countries entering."

"If INASFMH will not accept our guidelines and the codes of our book, then they will not be accepted into the

doing it," said Mats Hamberg, the secretary general.

"The World Health Organisation definition for learning difficulty is anyone with an IQ under 70, but that is not universally accepted. It is impossible to say how handicapped someone is; it is not like physically disabled people. INASFMH will not classify in open competition."

This stirs up a hornets nest of problems. In Barcelona, the physically disabled athletes proved themselves to be truly professional in their approach to competition and training. They were the elite of athletes with a disability, directly in parallel to the able-bodied save for the fact some competed in wheelchairs or with a guide

major hurdle, because in Madrid there was no dope control.

While some of the teams at Madrid did conduct testing at home, in other countries it raised legal questions.

Each athlete tested must sign a declaration stating that he understands the procedures involved and their possible consequences. If he cannot understand this fully, the test may be deemed, legally, to be a technical assault on the athlete.

Add to these problems the antagonism felt by many physically disabled athletes to the inclusion of INASFMH participants in Atlanta, and the path to integration looks stony.

Having worked hard and long to change the public's perception of physically disabled people - braving away from the "Does he take sugar?" approach - many feel that including those with learning difficulties in the Paralympics will wipe out that progress at a stroke.

On the practical front, INASFMH has a great rival in the United States, hosts of the next Paralympics. The Special Olympics organisation, an independent foundation started by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in the 1960s, runs all sport for those with learning difficulties in America. The one country noticeable by its absence in Madrid was, you've guessed it, the United States.

Disabled soccer fans score on access

Guidance on how soccer clubs can improve their facilities for disabled fans has been issued by the Football Stadia Advisory Design Council (FSADC).

The guidelines, published last month, will help clubs carry out the revised Part M Building Regulations which require clubs redeveloping their grounds to make "reasonable provision" for disabled people to get into their stadium.

Clubs are advised to use information signs based on symbols rather than words, provide a match commentary for spectators with visual impairments and ensure that viewing spaces are large enough to allow helpers to sit alongside wheelchair users.

The guidelines were launched at a seminar on football facilities organised by the FSADC and the Centre for Accessible Environments at Arsenal's Highbury stadium.

Geraint John of the Sports Council explained that the new Part M rules mean clubs submitting building plans after June 1992 must provide more spaces for disabled fans - a hundredth of the ground's capacity.

They must also install special facilities such as induction loops at ticket offices, unisex toilets that can be used by a

wheelchair user and low counters at refreshment kiosks.

Mr John said: "Overall, what is required of football clubs is a recognition that disability is part of the common experience and that it is normal not to see or hear well, to find steps a problem or to have difficulty turning taps and door handles."

The FSADC has also surveyed more than 1,000 disabled fans.

Its report *On the Sidelines* found that four out of 10 supporters with visual impairments receive no match commentary and eight out of 10 find entry points poorly signposted.

More than half the fans surveyed found refreshment facilities were not easily accessible and three out of 10 were dissatisfied with toilet facilities.

John Williams, who compiled the report for the FSADC, said: "The survey indicates that disabled people want to be able to choose between different kinds of facilities, to be consulted on their needs, to be given information about services and facilities, and to participate fully in the lives of their clubs."

Designing for Spectators with Disabilities and On the Sidelines, both £12.50, FSADC, tel: 071-224 9944.

Division of Psychiatry of Disability
St George's Hospital Medical School

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WORLD OF WOOD

Letters to the Editor

Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Telethon dispute ...

I am writing to express my anger at the misrepresentation of Block Telethon's position in your article "Telethon splits disability world" (DN, September).

Block Telethon has always advocated that television should sit down with accountable representatives of disabled people to determine how the media can become an ally to disabled people's struggle for civil rights in this country.

We recommend as a basis for this discussion the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People's recent paper on media images.

We had messages of support from the UN organisation Disabled People International and the World Institute on Disability and speakers from every organisation of disabled people in this country.

On their side, Telethon had the personal views of Dr Duckworth and friend.

Future employers of Dr Duckworth should be left in no doubt that he does not reflect the views and aspirations of the disabled people's movement, nor is he accountable to any organisation within the movement. His consultancy and training reflect the personally held views of himself and Philip Friend.

£10,000 seems a lot to pay for a personal opinion.
Alan Holdsworth
London N22

... goes on

It is an uncomfortable truth for aspiring visionaries, such as Alan Holdsworth of Block Telethon, that there are always alternative views to their own. His fierce words sit absurdly by adjacent headlines such as "Charities doomed", "Spastics Society hit", "ILF cutback".

To insist that all disabled people must agree on all things and to describe as "traitors to the disability movement" those who hold views at variance with his own can be quickly dismissed as narrow mindedness.

Equally, his disparaging reference to the motives of "money" and "careers" (a preoccupation with most of us, surely?) no doubt belies his own ambitions for publicity, notoriety, or whatever they be.

But what if Mr Holdsworth's "movement" had its way? Presumably not just Telethon would go, but all other charities too. And who would take over from where they left off ... the dead hand of the State perhaps?

Well, if Mr Holdsworth can manage that, he certainly would have advanced his career, and some would shout abuse at him, perhaps. Meanwhile, I keep a very open mind on the moral complexities of charity, and prefer to listen to the more circumspect views of Mr Friend and Dr Duckworth.
David Bonnett
London N4

Jobs and training

I am writing in reference to your article on jobs and training (DN, September).

Action for Blind People is an organisation that is committed to helping visually impaired and blind people to receive appropriate training (where possible in local colleges) and find meaningful employment on a national basis.

We help local colleges to set up training courses suitable for blind and visually impaired people and we run job clubs for anyone wishing to attend.

We have had an employment and training division for over 12 months now and have a very good record in helping people find employment.

Paul Carter
Employment development officer
Action for Blind People
14-16 Verney Road
London SE16 3DU

Carers complain

Can I please remind you to be careful how you use the word "carer". We have campaigned for a long time to get the word accepted as the description for someone with whom a relationship already exists and who provides *unpaid* (so-called "informal" care).

Please do not use it to describe someone who acts as a *paid* carer, as you did in the headline "Carer gets life" (DN, September).

Use of the word is extremely distressing for family and friends who are just learning to identify themselves as carers and to have their needs recognised at last.

Jill Pitkeathley
Director
Carers' National Association

Holiday ups and downs

During August, I took my family to Eureka! in Halifax, the children's hands-on museum, and to the Jorvik Viking Centre in York.

Eureka! was a let-down. Considering it had only been open for one month, the amount of broken equipment was surprising.

There were many parts which as an adult in a wheelchair I found hard to use, so a child would have even greater problems. The Star display and the Under-road sections had no access for wheelchairs.

People who have difficulty dealing with crowds of noisy children should stay away as it is a free-for-all experience.

Jorvik, by comparison, was excellent. The staff were very helpful.

When we neared the entrance, a member of staff came and took us to the lift and got our tickets for us. A special car transports the person in their wheelchair round the exhibition.

Finally, a place to eat out in Lancaster is the Garden Cafe, at 18 Mary Street, tel: (0524) 846011.

Situated in a side street on a single level, it has a children's play area, a decent size unisex toilet suitable for disabled people and a patio set with tables and chairs.

The people who run the cafe are committed to making disabled people very welcome, including large parties by prior arrangement.

The price of the food was reasonable, quality excellent and quantity good.
Charles Mills
Blackburn, Lancs

Reversible wheelchairs

I agree with Mary Slemp (DN, October) that there should be wheelchairs with moveable handles, so the disabled person can face either way.

Also, a much-needed addition, detachable hoods and aprons. These should be included with all wheelchairs - or are disabled people only supposed to go out when weather permits?

Don't tell me accessories can be bought. I know that. But you buy a pram for a baby and the hood and apron are included.

Mrs M Hesmondhalgh
Blackburn, Lancs

sic

DSS shocker (1)

A must-see for the coming months is the touring exhibition to mark the 50th anniversary of the the Beveridge Plan, the blueprint for the modern welfare state.

The exhibition traces the history of social security provision from Elizabethan times through Victorian workhouses to the Beveridge Plan.

Rumours that historians have unearthed a still-waiting-to-be-processed Disability Living Allowance claim from Queen Victoria have been denied.

DSS shocker (2)

Shortly before DN uncovered the administrative chaos surrounding the processing of Disability Living/Working Allowance claims (DN, October), the Department of Social Security's Disability Benefits Policy Branch won the 1992 Royal Institute of Public Administration/Hay Management Consultants prize for "managerial innovation".

As well as praising the DSS for the freephone benefits enquiry line, etc, judges noted how "April 1992 saw the introduction of two new social security benefits for disabled people, bringing new financial help to over 300,000 people".

Rumours that the DSS has been asked to return the £1,000 prize and engraved glass plaque have been denied.

Cinema claptrap

Thank you to DN reader Sue Jones of Aldridge, Walsall, for sending in a review of *Howards End*, published in the magazine of the Triangle Cinema, Birmingham.

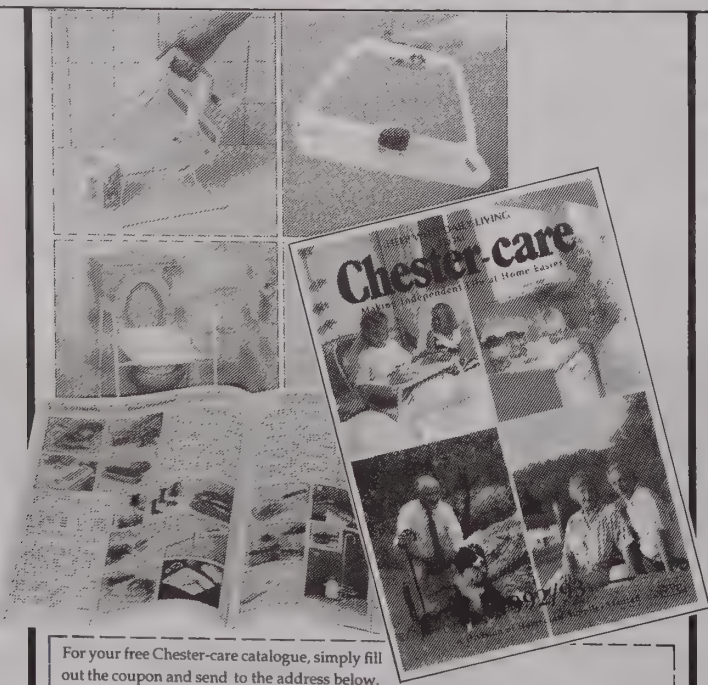
Critic Mark Sanderson writes "... the only way Ruth Prawer Jhabvala's overlong screenplay can incorporate all the incident is by having more black-outs than a convention of epileptics".

The only way we can understand publishing piffle like this is by having more insensitivity than a convention of smarty-pants film critics.

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DN's "agony aunt", Ann Darnbrough, meets the doyenne of them all, Marje Proops

Feeling somewhat nervous on my way to interview "the world's greatest advice columnist", as Marje Proops is billed in the *Daily Mirror*, I was glad of a friendly chat with the taxi driver. He told me he was a great fan of Marje, and that while he did not always agree with everything she wrote, he unfailingly read her column.

Well, I know I've got a lot of catching up to do - me being only a year old in this business against Marje's 40 years.

But as I walked through her office door I felt instantly at ease - her warm personality and deep concern for the people who write to her are obvious, and her enthusiasm, perhaps surprising after all this time in the job, is very infectious.

Marje's page is popular with people of all ages. The general reader is fascinated to see all human life pass by, while others are looking to find advice and information to help them, particularly those who have written in.

I was greatly encouraged to learn that absolutely everyone who writes to Marje with a problem gets an answer - the *Mirror* is one of the few papers left that is truly concerned about its readers' problems. Marje has a staff of nine, including herself and Eddie,

her driver, on whom she relies to get to work each day.

It is because she is disabled, Marje believes, that she receives a lot of letters from people with disabilities. "It is fairly well known among readers that I'm arthritic and have had two hip replacement operations. I'm registered as partially disabled and cannot walk unaided. There was a long period of time when I was in a wheelchair. As a result, disabled people feel they can write to me about their problems without any inhibitions."

When Marje went to the office in her wheelchair, she found her colleagues were "absolutely wonderful". They took it in turns to drive her to the editor's office for the daily conference. "They would run bets as to who could get me there first. The picture editor always won because he was allowed to go through the dark room which was a short cut."

But when she went shopping with her husband ("Proopsie"), she found she was overlooked - it would be he who was asked how she was feeling. She used to joke that she only ever made eye contact with kids and dogs. She learnt, at first hand, about the barriers that often exist between disabled people and those who are able-bodied.

She was able to see, too, the difficulties that able-bodied people have in understanding disability, which often makes



"I'm not Mrs God and I can't act and behave as if I am."

them feel "uncomfortable and nervous".

Many of the problems presented to Marje are to do with sex, where disabled people may have particular difficulties. Even readers who have found their ideal partner tell her that physical handicaps mean sexual fulfillment is often very difficult to achieve. Many of the popular books about sex and personal relationships are good, but as Marje says: "The athletic

proress that is required to perform these acts is of Olympian standards. That's OK if you're young and energetic and all your limbs are working, but if you happen to have one leg, you can't wrap two round your boyfriend or he can't wrap two round you, or it hurts or is awkward, that can be discouraging."

For those people who cannot find a partner, Marje recommends the friendship agency Handicate (see page 30).

A great many questions put to Marje involve moral or ethical dilemmas, such as

abortion. She believes it is her job to spell out all the options for the person, so they can make up their own mind. As she puts it, "I am not Mrs God and I can't act and behave as if I am. Everybody has to make their own decisions."

Neither would she ever make moral judgements. "I don't think anybody can or should or is entitled to make moral judgments on anybody else's behalf. I respect people whose religious convictions are so strong that they would say a life should never be taken, but they shouldn't force their views on me any more than I should force my more liberal views on them."

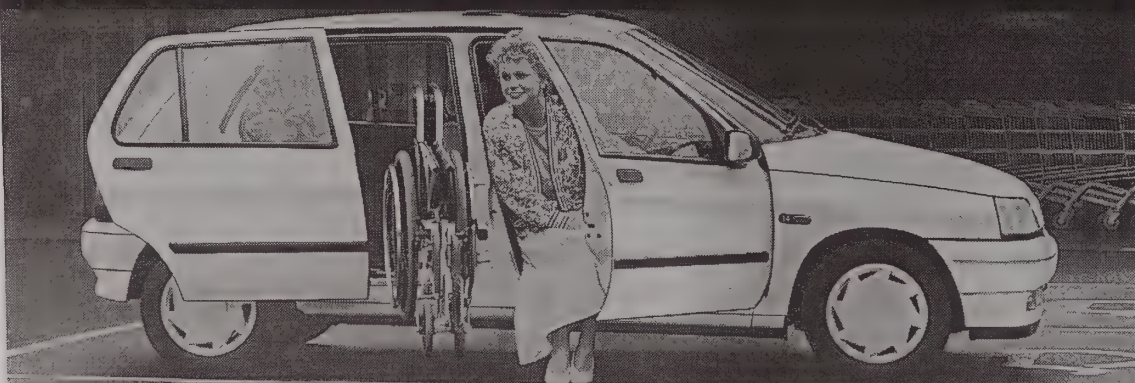
How does Marje retain her equable and balanced outlook?

While she undoubtedly takes to heart the seemingly intractable difficulties troubling those who write to her, she is clearly at ease with herself and, as a strong feminist, very much her own person.

Her marriage to Proopsie has obviously been a well-spring of happiness and contentment, sustaining her now she is by herself. (He died three years ago.)

The secret of her full time job (she is now in her 70s) and the undiminished popularity she continues to enjoy amongst her readers, her colleagues, and her friends, seems to be her enormous enthusiasm for life. Nothing is quite so energising to a person of any age, or so attractive to other people, as a lively interest in and concern for others.

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All-change at the something for everyone exhibition

by Jenny Dhoopun

Wembley Exhibition Centre, where last month's Naidex was held for the first time, was marred by lack of signposting. Being new to Wembley, I found the centre hard to find and, when I did, the £6 parking fee was a setback. (I understand the courtesy buses didn't appear at the tube station.)

Orange badge holders had free parking, and access from the disabled parking area to the exhibition was easy. Reception was friendly and helpful.

There looked to be far fewer people than usual, yet the Naidex organisers say more than 18,000 went over the three days, some 2,000 more than Alexandra Palace attracted last year.

Perhaps the more spacious lay-out with wider aisles gave a feeling of space. Lighting was good, particularly for visually impaired people, although I think they still need more help in getting around - low level labelling of stands would be helpful. Food and drinks are still very expensive.

There were new items on many of the familiar stands, some new faces and some major ones missing. A number of firms seem to have amalgamated or taken over products. Liberator, for example, now sells the Neatereater.

Powered chairs

Carehouse has a power chair built around the customer's needs, suitable for two-year-olds upwards. Alexis I is ideal in confined spaces, as it turns on its own axis. There is a comfortable, upholstered seat with a low centre of gravity. £2,650. Tel: (0244) 300729.

Raymar has a new range of

naidex 92

DN's experts report from Wembley



Novel way to power your wheelchair: Chevron's addition to the Easyrider. GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

Levo stand-up wheelchairs with accessories. Prices from £1,950.

The **Amigo IV** is its latest addition to the Amigo range, a four-wheel scooter which gives more stability when crossing uneven ground. Although capable of climbing a three-inch kerb, it is still compact and dismantles for storage.



Hydramec's Easicarry for any car or motor caravan.

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Marchwood Power Chairs makes custom-built chairs using its own designs or customer one-offs. There is a range of electrical features, and seats can be altered to suit changing needs, so they are a good long term investment. From £4,950. Tel: (0202) 826736.

The **EMV Sport Mobility** from Electro Motive Vehicles is a new concept in mobility vehicles. Stable and sturdy, it has a canopy and pull-down rain screen, a front luggage compartment, four-wheel drive and adjustable seating. £2,195. Tel: 081-905 1372.

Penny & Giles have developed a new battery charge indicator. Colour coded to indicate to user/carer when charging is needed, it should prevent you being stranded

after an evening at the local. Check price with your wheelchair supplier. Tel: (0425) 271444.

Flexel Mobility provides a range of maintenance-free inserts and infills for wheelchair tyres already fitted to some existing wheelchairs - and used by athletes at the Barcelona Paralympics. Tel: (0280) 704626.

Fish Insurance offers a new wheelchair insurance - an item many people forget - covering

third party as well as other risks. Tel: (0772) 724442.

Manual chairs

Here I liked Chiltern Medical Developments' new ultra-light wheelchairs, designed to fill the gap between the quickies and tailor-made chairs. Prices from £395-£690. Tel: (0869) 246470.

Remarka Enterprises has two elevating wheelchair seats, £199 each, and an orthotic body support system, not yet priced. Tel: 081-203 2473.

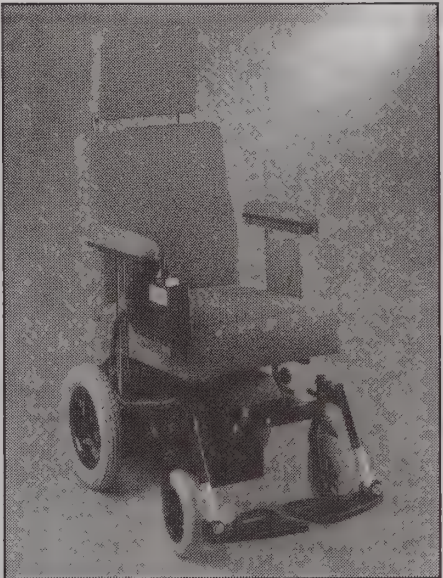
There is a fun addition to the **Easyrider** by **Chevron**. It is a new way to power the wheelchair. A detachable wheel is added giving a pedal gear drive, and it is propelled by simultaneously using the arms in a push-pull motion. Made from standard bike parts, it can be fitted to an existing chair or bought complete. £300-£1,500 depending on specification. Tel: 051-707 1146.

Hydramec has an **Easicarry** for taking wheelchairs on the back of any car or motor caravan. It can cope with manual, electric or specialist non-folding sports chairs and seems an excellent addition for wheelchair users. Prices from £105-£150. Tel: (0953) 452831.

An attractive, flowered material caught my eye on the **Wardle Storeys** stand, suppliers to wheelchair manufacturers. There is a large range of vinyl-coated fabrics in the **Ambla** collection. An attractive cover could be a fashion accessory as well as an essential mobility tool - wheelchair manufacturers take note. Tel: (0282) 842511.

Continued on page 16

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IN THE HOME

Cheap, cheery and useful to have around your home

by Jenny Dhoopun

Several new ideas here, as well as improved versions of old friends.

Nottingham Rehab's **Easigrip** cutlery is lightweight with increased plastic coating to protect against bite reflex, £7.70 for a pack of 3 teaspoons. Shape memory polymer cutlery can be moulded easily and quickly to the shape of your hand by placing in warm water. Lightweight and attractive to look at, £14.99 each. The **Rover trolley** is a walking aid converted into an adjustable height trolley - no more banged ankles when walking, and easily turned round to use as a table when sitting. £79.95.

Nottingham Rehab now supplies Mowbray toilet seat frames separately. £33.95 each. Tel: (0602) 452345.

Among new items at **Homecraft**, there is the **Pickup**, newly designed in two lengths. The reacher is worked by a light-grip handle and there is no cord inside. The plastic jaws rotate and can pick up credit cards, but they were defeated by an old 10p - doubtless they will manage the new coin. A locking device eliminates the need for continued pressure. From £7.55.

There is also a new plastic version of the **St Helier raiser**, still with screw or castor fitting, made in plastic instead of wood, so it is environmentally friendly and cheaper. From £13.05.

A fun item was the **grass and leaf scoopers**, big, brightly coloured, plastic moulded scoops with hand straps on the back. Children could invent many other uses. All available from **Chestercare** mail order. Tel: (0623) 757955.

There were several new pillows. One was the **silver lining(!) pillow** from **Bodycheck**. With an air insertion, so it cannot flatten, it cradles the head whenever

you move. Remove the insertion and both can be rolled up to fit into a small bag or suitcase. £19.95. Tel: (063087) 3525.

Nottingham Rehab have a stay-put support pillow designed by someone with arthritis for use in bed as a leg support. £20.45. **Homecraft's** wave pillow has double cervical support rolls and a rippled surface for good circulation. From £17.99.

On the **British Gas** stand were two appliances: the **Parkinson Cowan Compact** hot-fill dishwasher which fits on a work top, takes four place settings, is economical to use, quiet to operate and controls that are large, easy to see and

use. About £279.

The **White Knight** washing machine is economical and has clear and easy-to-operate controls. £379. Tel: 071-242 0789.

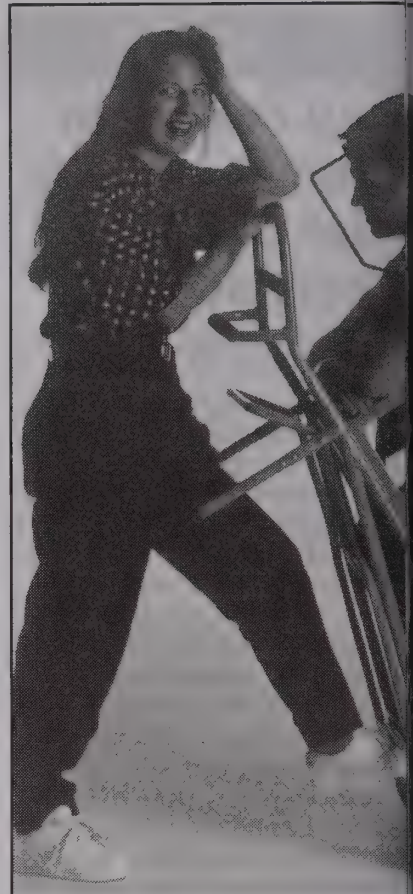
I discovered at NAIDEX that I am "vertically challenged" (shorter than most) and **Hemco** has two new chairs, **The Scot** and **The Cottage**, to meet the needs of this group of people. It was pleasant to sit supported without your legs being straightened by too long a seat. £735 each. They also tailor-make chairs for customers. Tel: (0446) 773394.

Typists' chairs have been improved, although not all are suitable for disabled people. **Marketeer** (exhibited by **AEL Furniture Group** of London) had a chair which looked much like a standard chair, but is adaptable, complies with EC directives on health and safety in the workplace and is easily used and supportive. Tel: (081) 742 3388.

Parker

Bath Developments had, amongst its tried and tested range, the new **Madison**, which can be raised and lowered by a hand-held control and can include a shower and optional whirlpool or air jet spa system. From £4,200. Tel: (0425) 622287.

A new and exciting development from **Nicholls & Clarke** is the **Rota-track** from the **Phlexicare** range. It gives an electronically-controlled height adjustment to kitchen cupboards, each system raising or lowering wall units or shelves. Remote control is optional. Designed for the kitchen, it could be useful in other parts of the home. £480. Also from



The Cindy Lift: "an exciting new..."

Phlexicare, the **Rota Rail**, a simple electronic concept which raises and lowers a hanging rail, allowing easy access for people with limited reach and better use of storage space. £398. Tel: (071) 247 5432.

Ridley Electronics has three new products. There is a new type of **sequencer**, more ergonomically designed, from £360. A new **TV control** with large one and one-half inch square buttons - the whole control can be velcroed to a table - needs minimal manual dexterity and can be used on most types of TV. £85-130. A 100 per cent hands-free **door latch release intercom** would be useful for people unable to get to the intercom by the door. It costs £30 on top of an existing door-release intercoms. Tel: (081) 558 7112.

At the **RNIB** stand I found that **Talking Books** are now available in Urdu, Punjabi, Gujarati and Bengali as well as



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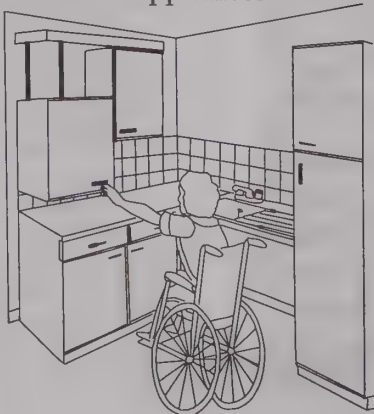


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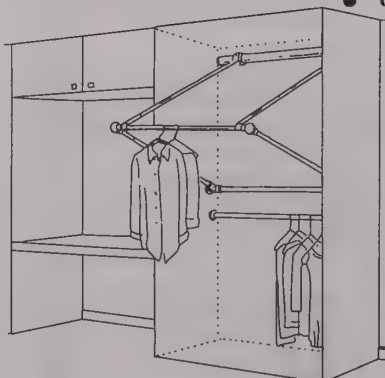
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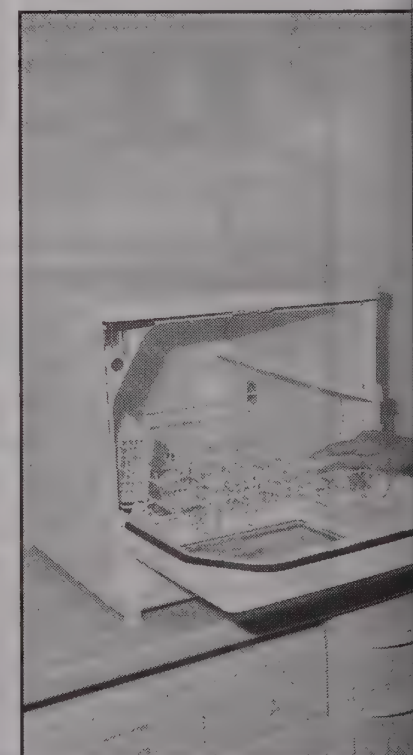


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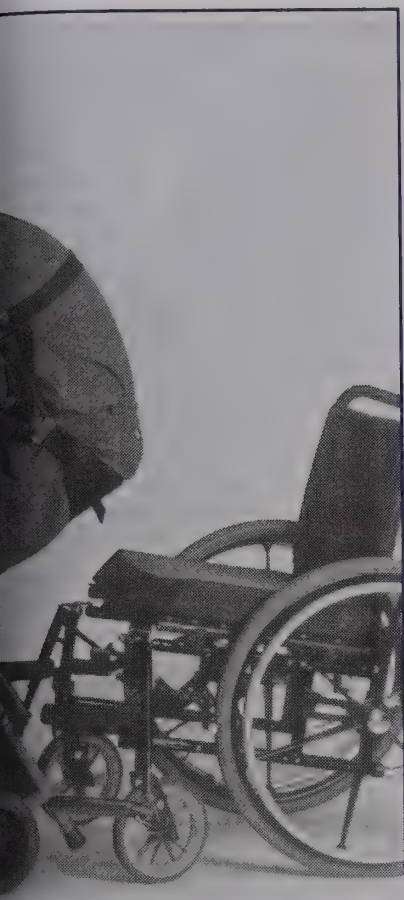
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Parkinson Cowan Compact dish...



pt in patient transfer."

There was a talking calculator, clearly speaks numbers and mathematical functions and can be used



over Trolley

adphones, £11.44. The plastic buffer guard was useful, £4.75. A sound newly designed, gave clearer sound



was made to fit worktops

and was more economical in use. Tel: (071) 388 1266.

British Telecom has the new Ferntech 320 Range of telephone, which can be used with a speech synthesiser.

The new cordless Freelance 200 has an inductive coupler and is channel switchable, cutting out interference. Ferntech Systems, tel: (051) 708 0405.

Last, but not least, an exciting and versatile new concept in patient transfer is the Cindy Lift. Designed originally for one young lady, it has now been developed to give security to the person being cared for and an easy transfer for the carer. Well worth further investigation. £80. Mobility Aids Centre, Peterborough, tel: (0733) 344930.

Jenny Dhoopun is an advisory occupational therapist with The Spastics Society.

CHILDREN

Teenagers get a look-in for the first time this year

by Jane Joester

The usual mix of large and small children's equipment was to be seen at Wembley Naidex, with a few new and interesting products launched, and other updated items on show.

In my search for equipment for teenage children, I usually end up very frustrated at

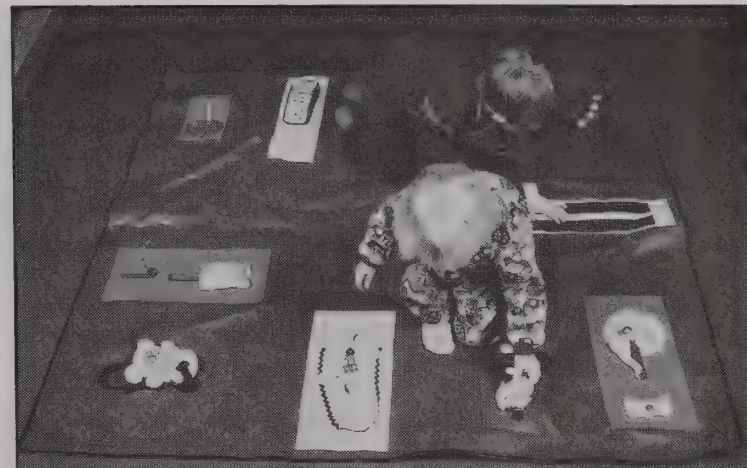
finding potentially useful equipment only available in the under ten years old sizes. Rifton, however, is a company whose equipment fits from toddler to adults. They were once again showing their M.O.V.E. range and have added two new items which should prove useful and popular.

The Universal Chair Frame is a multi-variable support for the child who is learning to sit independently. It can be used with an ordinary chair and the support can be gradually reduced or altered for different activities. It provides chest, lateral and forearm supports, and can even be used over the lavatory. The frame is fully adjustable between seating heights 20-48 cms (child height 81-183 cms). £210.00.

The Advancement Chair comes in two sizes to fit from



Elaine Walker tries out the Hip Plaster Chair.



Tfh Activity Mat: attracted lots of attention!

age two up to adults. It is fully supportive in both erect and forward leaning postures. The series of supports, or "prompts", can be removed as the child's sitting ability improves. I liked the calf gutters and ankle straps holding the feet in position on

the floor. This removed the need for a footboard, thus ensuring that sitting to standing transfers are easier. £525.00 for 36 cm, £546.00 for 46 cm. Tel: (0580) 880626.

A different approach to seating was shown by G and S Smirthwaite Ltd of Newton Abbot, who are best known for their extensive range of conductive education equipment. Smirthwaites were showing their new chairs for children in hip plasters, but the chairs could also be potentially useful for children with neurological impairment.

The Hip Plaster Chair has a straddle seat which has vertical, horizontal and angular adjustments. The back wings and tray adjustable too. The chair could be useful in continuing therapy, as well as providing comfortable, supportive seating. £230.00 plus accessories (£62.00 - £92.00, depending on size). Tel: (0626) 835552.

Tfh Ltd was attracting attention with its new Activity Mat. This offers children playing on the floor a range of

Continued on page 18

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John McFarlane, Director, The Computability Centre.

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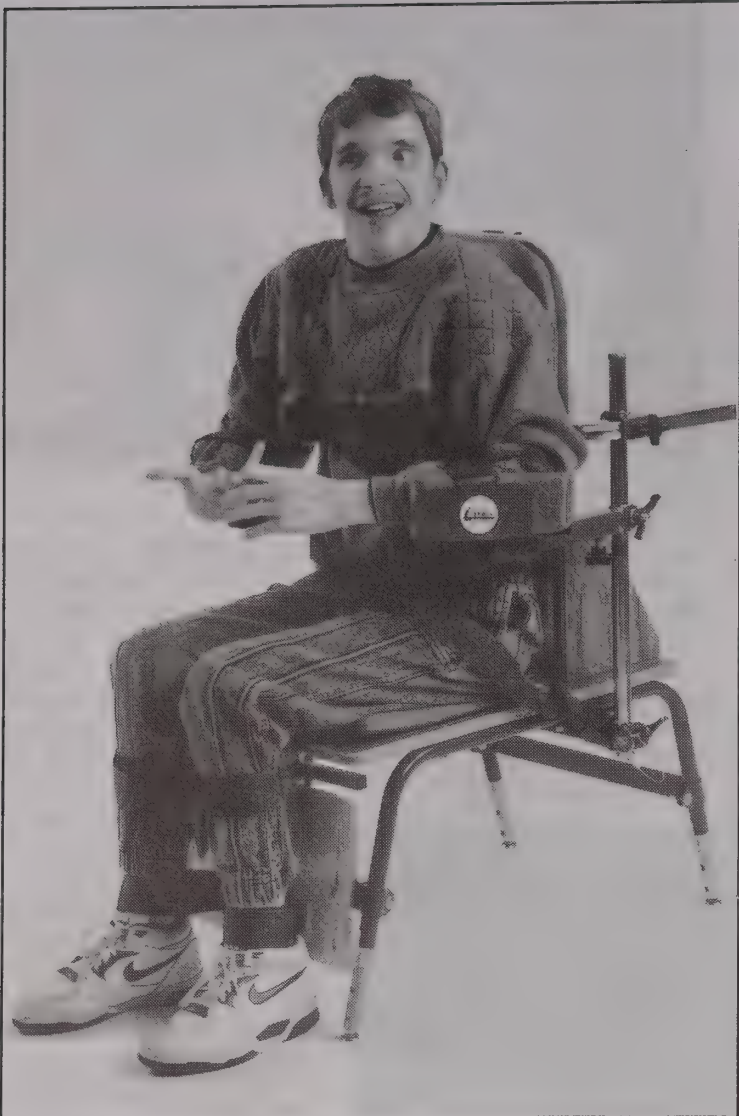
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Stannah Stairlifts Limited is part of the Stannah Lifts Group.



Ben Franklin in the Rifton Advancement chair

Continued from page 17
toys to enjoy, including squeakers, rattles, beads and pockets. The mat is fully washable and would be as useful at home as in nurseries. (A larger version with different ways to stimulate the senses could be very useful

for children who have sensory disabilities. I understand that one is being considered.) £135.

Once again there was interest in the Wheelchair Swing, which can raise a wheelchair off the ground within a swinging frame.

Anyone thinking of buying the swing should look carefully at the whole range of active play frames Tfh do before making a decision, as there are many other exciting options. Swing £69.96. Swing Frame £39.50.

Also worth noting were the Senior Activity Arches and the Wheelchair Activity Arch. These are steel arches with velcro straps from which you can hang play materials for the older child who is on the floor or in a wheelchair. Senior Activity Arch £22.50. Wheelchair Activity Arch £17.50. Tel: (0299) 827820.

WRK Developments, producers of the SUPA products, was showing its new range, which includes the popular SUPA Bykes in pre-school to teenage and adult sizes. £265-£325 depending on size.

Therapists might be interested in the Pommel and the Abduction Pad, both of which will help maintain abduction of the hips while cycling. Pommel, two sizes, £14-£15. Abduction pad, four sizes, £39-£55.50. Tel: (0945) 880014.

Clinical Engineering Designs were showing the Headmaster Collar, a lightweight cervical collar that looked as though it may be of use with some children who need support for their head or neck. I shall be interested in trying it with children who have cerebral palsy.

The advantages over the designs available at the moment include easy adjustment and cleaning, and a discreet appearance. £36. Tel: 081-397 1166.

Jane Joester is a therapy co-ordinator at The Spastics Society's Meldreth Manor School.

MOTORING

The big names turn up to show the latest and the greatest

by Mike Rogers

The road user exhibits were well worth going to see. All the big manufacturers were there: Ford rubbing bumpers with Rover and Vauxhall, and Volkswagen displaying with Devon Conversions.

Ford showed nothing very new (it is waiting for its CTX automatic gearbox to be married to the new engine range).

But on show were the popular Fiesta and the re-vamped Escort, which has helped recover Ford's lost position with that model. The "Disabled Escort" with power steering will reappear when the above auto-match is done.

The Ford stand played host to Gowrings Mobility which launched its new Chairman Fiesta Elite with rear wheelchair entry.

The Elite includes many extras over the standard Chairman Fiesta, such as alloy wheels, duo-tone paint finish, top windscreen wiper and wash jet, radio-controlled central locking, lowered suspension and front fog lights.

Internally, the extras include leather bound steering wheel, high back rear seats, fire extinguisher, interior lights for rear or ramp and extra sound proofing.



Mike Rogers in the Vauxhall Astra



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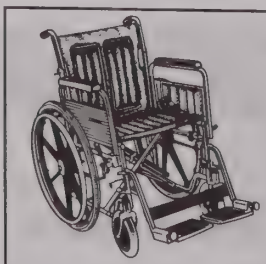
- * 24 hour care
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For further details and brochure please contact: Mrs Jean Franklin, Care Manager, Ann Charlton Lodge, Edenhall Grove, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 4PR. Telephone: (0642) 480660.

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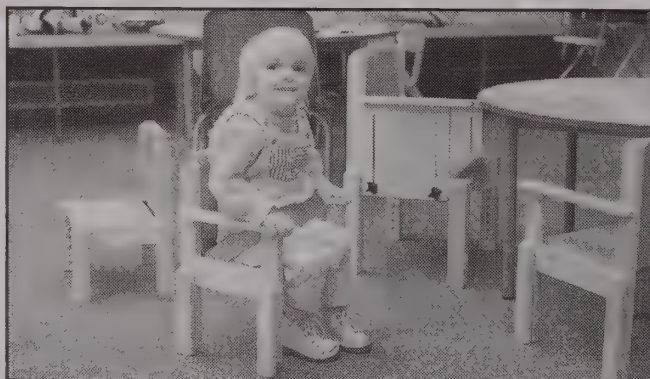


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Gowrings lays its usual heavy emphasis on safety via body strength, with twin built-in rollbars to beef up the raised-roof. £16,995. Tel: (0635) 871502.

Vauxhall would have shown the attractive, new, restyled Astra with four-speed automatic gearbox, had it not been involved in a road accident en route to Naidex. But I was able to try a "manual" version for size, identical in every other respect. The ever popular Astra is now further enhanced. Price for new Astra to be set in November.

Vauxhall Motability continued to vie with Fords in caring about disabled motorists' requirements. They drew attention to an Astra 1.3 Merit Automatic, which is used to teach disabled drivers and has just passed 207,000 miles with no major repairs needed. Tel: (0582) 861888.

Rover revealed its new Metro Automatic 1.4L with a continually variable transmission (CVT). I had the chance to test one in the summer, and a smoothly enjoyable week's motoring it was too. £8,775. Tel: (0582) 866123.

Brotherwood Automobility



Universal Mobility's Ford Escort conversion

GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

showed its high quality engineered, rear wheelchair entry conversions to two Nissan Prairies - the newer and attractively streamlined version of their family seven-seater, and the earlier Prairie, which is still very popular with disabled motorists because of its pillar-less side door design. £18,000-£19,500.

Brotherwood was also showing its Combi, a chaired passenger carrier based on the Ford Courier. The low, rear-access floor lets the wheelchair-using passenger ride on much the same level as others - a point many people appreciate. £10,700. Tel: (0935) 872603.

Universal Mobility were showing their new wheelchair passenger-carrying Escort conversion. The conversion sports exceptional all-round visibility and rear air-suspension for extra comfort. £15,315-£17,415.

Also on display was their President van conversion which always attracts attention with its "sweet and low" side access (yet with good head height) for wheelchair users. From £21,000. Tel: (0293) 871019.

The good news on the President front is that Chrysler is about to set up a UK network that will help service these US-built vehicles.

Few car adaptation manufacturers were spotted at Wembley. (If that field is your special interest, make a date for the Department of Transport's next Mobility Roadshow at

Crowthorne on 11-13 June 1993.) One company did catch my eye. F J Payne Manufacturing specialises in Patient Handling Hoists which are neat and uncomplicated.

Its Oxford 125 Mini Hoist provides a practical way of cradling people with very lim-



The Chairman Fiesta Elite from Gowrings Mobility

ited mobility into a front passenger car seat. £475. Tel: (0865) 881881.

All in all, Naidex was well worth a visit. It was refreshing to see so much business going on in these hard recessionary times. The economy might have its ups and downs, but the needs of disabled people continue - and an increasing number of companies are anxious to meet them.

Mike Rogers is a freelance journalist and author.

Jenny Dhoopun adds: RAC Motoring Services were detailing the new RAC Response service.

Membership covers your car for any authorised driver and you and your spouse for whatever car you are travelling in.

Included in the service are breakdown detail forms and a "help" flag. £69. Tel: (0272) 232444.

NEWS FROM NAIDEX

Peter Large wins the Harding award

by Tim Russell

Peter Large (right) was awarded the 1992 Harding Award at the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation's (RADAR) annual general meeting, held at Naidex.



The award is presented every year by RADAR and Action Research for "outstanding work of benefit to disabled people".

Mr Large became disabled in 1962 after having polio.

He is chairman of the Association of Disabled Profession-

als, chairman of the Joint Committee on Mobility for Disabled People, vice chairman of the Disability Income Group and deputy chairman of the Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee. He is also a governor of Motability.

After receiving the award, Mr Large called for anti-discrimination legislation. "The simplest and most direct way of combating acts of discrimination is to make them illegal."

RADAR members voted to reduce the charity's executive committee from 25 to 12, two thirds of which are disabled people.

Director Bert Massie said: "It was felt that the committee was too large. By reducing its size we hope to maximise its efficiency."

Dr Adrian Stokes stood down as chairman but remains on the committee. As DN went to press, a new chairman was to be elected on 28 October.



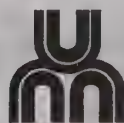
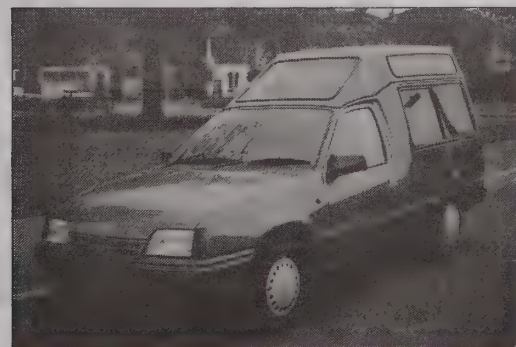
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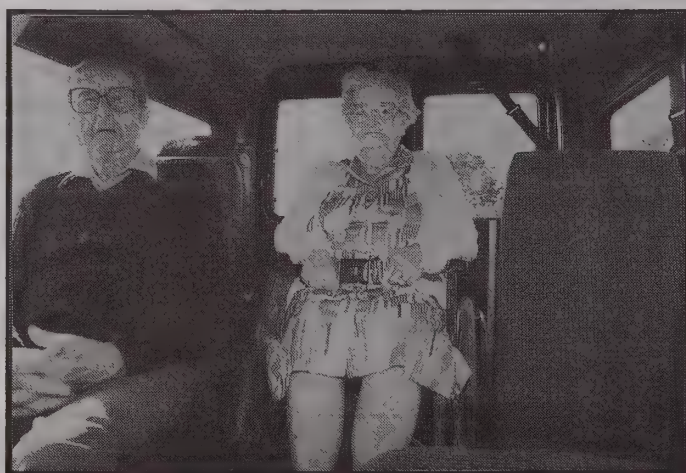
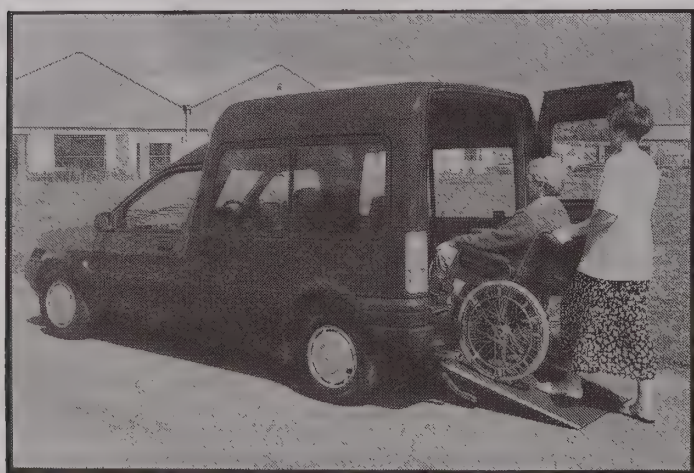
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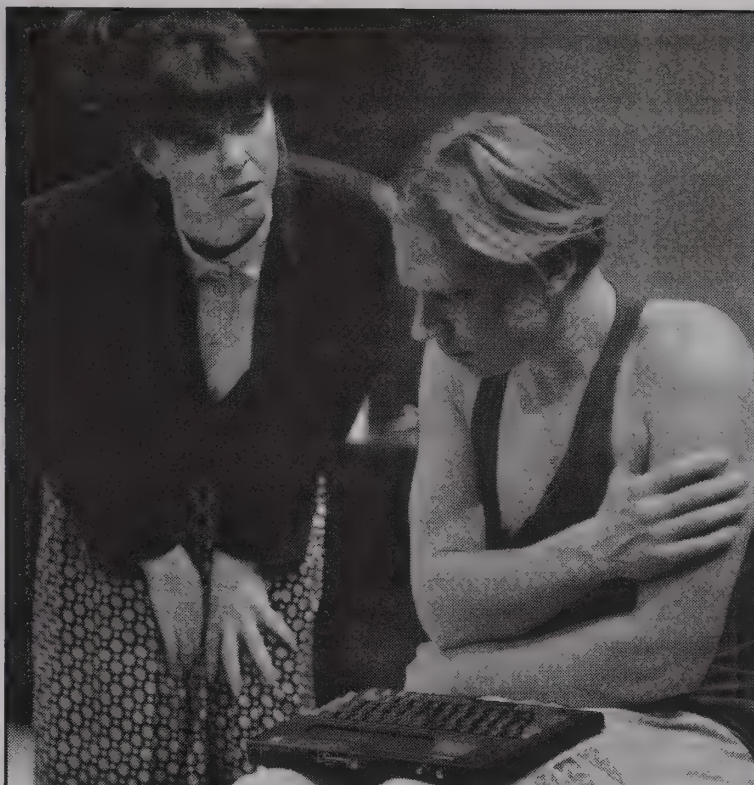
A Kind of Immigrant

Simon lives with Marge, a woman with a politically correct attitude to everything - or so she thinks, until the day Simon wakes up and can't feel his legs.

A Kind of Immigrant is disabled writer Firdaus Kanga's first stage play. It is performed by Graeae Theatre Company, a company of disabled actors.

Simon is the sort who goes out every Friday, plays rugby and drinks eight pints of beer. Disability terrifies him.

One day, Simon (Jeremy Killick) hears banging on the wall. His neighbour Ramoo (Rashid Karapiet) wants to know why Simon is often crying. Ramoo is from the Punjab in India and has been living in England for 40 years. He explains that everyone goes through several changes in



Marge and Simon: a modern couple whose times change

their lives and that Simon must come to terms with his. They become friends.

Meanwhile, Marge (Shan Stevens) is trying to help Simon but instead she patronises him. She suggests they invite Firdy (Mark Beer), their other neighbour, to

dinner. Firdy (like Firdaus Kanga) is disabled and gay. Simon doesn't want to know.

However, as the weeks go by, Simon and Firdy become very close, leading Simon to re-examine his sexuality. He decides to move in with Firdy. On the first night they have

sex, but as with his disability, Simon cannot accept this change, telling Marge that Firdy seduced him.

Simon eventually comes to terms with his disability and sexuality and stays with Firdy for the next two years. When Ramoo dies, he leaves Firdy to start a new life.

Kanga shows that change can be a force for good. He also tackles what some might see as taboo subjects - culture, sexuality and disability. Some people might see their prejudices exposed, but rightly so. And at over two hours long, it can be heavy going.

Shan Stevens and Mark Beer were excellent. Jeremy Killick as Simon was unconvincing at times, his anger seeming a bit too suppressed. A special mention goes to Rashid Karapiet whose lines caused the most laughter.

The play made me realise that a lot of positive things can come out of disability, even if it is not always apparent at first. It is a shame that Leicester's Phoenix Theatre was less than half full.

Michael Gilhooley

Touring till 5 December. Contact Graeae, tel: 071-383 7541.

TV

A disabled character was included in an episode of 2

Point 4

Children

(BBC1, 22 September)

with subtlety and skill.

The plot revolved around husband Ben having macho fantasies of the Arnold Schwarzenegger type. When someone tries to overtake him on a car journey home, he takes this as a challenge to his manhood. The two cars vie for supremacy, with Ben eventually losing.

The next day Ben traces the offending driver's car, leaving an aggressive note on the windscreen. The driver turns out to be a blonde punkie wheelchair user (played by Mik Scarlet). Ben's wife resolves the argument by suggesting a wheelchair race, knowing that this will cut her husband's machismo down to size.

Even though the casting of Mik Scarlet was no surprise, the producer should be congratulated for choosing a genuine disabled actor. Hopefully, we'll see the disabled character again.

We Are The Champions (BBC1, 10 September) and the *Grandstand* coverage of the Paralympics (BBC1, 12 September; BBC2, 13 September; & BBC1, 19 September) made up the two halves of disability sport. Those taking part in the Paralympics tended, in the main, to be less impaired than the youngsters in *Champions*.

Both programmes had excellent imagery and an unpatronising presentation. They provided magnificent motivation and role models for any disabled people watching.

Every year I hope that *Champions* will return as a series just for disabled teams. The *Grandstand* treatment was exemplary, though if it had featured a little more of the sports specifically devised for disabled people, it may have been a little less physically elitist. For anyone who missed the episodic coverage of the Paralympics, I hope BBC Sport will transmit an omnibus.

Stranger in the Family (C4, 18 Sept) tried to tackle what happens when someone's character changes as a result of head injury.

I would have preferred the film to be more about Neil, the husband who had been injured. Instead, it concentrated on his family. It was direct and honest, but it still contributed towards the "trauma of disability" stereotype.

Chris Davies

FILM

Waterdance

The title of writer/co-director Neil Jimenez's debut film sums up the philosophy of one of its recently disabled characters, Ray (Wesley Snipes). To survive the change in his life, Ray must dance on the stormy waters of adversity.

The movie appears to be guided by the same belief. To feature disability and survive at the box office (Hollywood's one and only golden rule), it has to dance on the temperamental waters of public demand.

And the public gets what the public wants, which in this case is a good old, titillating, warts-and-all look at the medical model of disability with humour, romance and an escape-from-rehab adventure thrown in for good measure. It's a kind of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* in wheelchairs with an up-beat ending.

Joel Garcia (Eric Stolz) had a bad fall while hiking along cliffs and is now disabled. We follow his story from waking to find himself in traction, to getting to grips with the ward politics of the rehab centre and re-examining his relationship with Anna (Helen Hunt), the lover who was about to leave her husband before Joel's accident.

Well, we don't just follow *his* story. That's part of the problem. We also look at the lives of Ray, a married African-American with a taste for women and tall tales, and Bloss

(William Forsythe), a once tough biker (not necessarily the most imaginative screen representations).

The result of all this is that the film doesn't have the time to explore the broader social model of any one character's disability. (If only we had been

flow of compromise.

Two other films in the London Film Festival* focussing on disability are *Mama/Mum* and *A Scene at the Sea*. The first is from China and dedicated to "The 10th Anniversary of the United Nations Handicapped"



Ray (Wesley Snipes) must dance on stormy waters

told more of Anna's search for an accessible flat for Joel, for example.) And it is forced to trade in stereotypes. This reduces the end product to an exercise in medical sensationalism.

All of which is confusing as Jimenez is a rarity in Hollywood, a working disabled person. You would think if anyone can do justice to disability on film, then Neil's your man - particularly as he writes from personal experience.

Only one person in recorded history has walked on water (and that's open to debate). It shouldn't be surprising that it's impossible to dance on the stuff, especially when it's moved by the constant ebb and

(sic). It tells of a mother's struggle to bring up her disabled son in a society which until 1983 offered abandonment or institutionalisation to its disabled citizens. Emotionally, it's strong stuff. But the real centre of attention is the mother and not the son with learning difficulties.

The second is from Japanese director Kitano Takeshi. In it a young deaf couple develop a taste for surfing. It's an odd kettle of fish, more interesting for its stylistic qualities than any comment on disability.

Andy Kimpton-Nye

*Tickets on sale from 30 October. Tel: 071-928 3232.

VIDEO

CS: closed subtitles, S: subtitles, NS: no subtitles.

1. PRINCE OF TIDES (Columbia Tristar) Streisand and Nick Nolte in psycho-therapy drama. (CS)

2. THE BLACK ROBE (Entertainment) Following in the footsteps of *Dances with Wolves*, but grittier. (NS)

3. FATHER OF THE BRIDE (Touchstone) Re-make comedy vehicle for Steve Martin lacking in laughs. (NS)

4. HEAR MY SONG (CIC) Winsome Brit comedy in sear of 50s singer (audio described, see *DN*, October).

5. JFK (Warner) Kevin Costner on the trail of who-killed-Kennedy? (CS) Andy Kimpton-Nye

Chart courtesy of MRIB

Look out for Wheelchairs for Bangladesh - a whole new ballgame?

Photographs by David Constantine. Till 31 October. Brixton, London. Tel: 071-738 5774.

Signed performance of *Pig in a Poke*, a "brilliantly absurd" comedy by Georges Feydeau. 18 November. Bury St Edmonds Theatre Royal. Tel: (0284) 769505.

Catherine Framé and Tracy Scollin take a look at some recent releases

Widow's Journey: A Return to Living

by Xenia Rose
(Human Horizon Series, Souvenir Press, £8.95 paperback, £13.95 hardback)

Xenia Rose tells how she survived and came to terms with the grief and pain of losing a loved partner.

Normalisation: A Reader for the Nineties.

Edited by Hilary Brown and Helen Smith
(Routledge, £11.99)

Normalisation - the idea that people with learning difficulties have a right to lead an ordinary life like everyone else - has become central to the community care debate in the '90s. But what does it really mean and how can it be used? This book brings together different perspectives.

The New Medicine

by Nigel Cameron
(Hodder & Stoughton, £6.99)

The New Medicine explores



When Rosie Logan was 38, constantly tired, beaten by her husband and losing her sight because of diabetes, she tried to commit suicide. *Rosie in Rachel*, billed by the publishers as "one woman's triumph over madness and blindness", describes life in Rachel Ward, the psychiatric unit of a Whitechapel hospital. *Rosie in Rachel* by Rosie Logan (Bloomsbury, £10.95)

modern shifts in medical practice, including the "acceptance" of abortion and euthanasia, from a Christian point of view.

Am I Allowed to Cry?

Maureen Oswin
(Human Horizon Series, Souvenir Press, £7.99 paperback, £12.99 hardback)

A study of bereavement amongst people who have learning difficulties.

Jumbly Words, and Rights Where Wrongs Should Be: The Experience of Aphasia from the Inside

Edited by Gill Edelman and Robert Greenwood
(Far Communications, 5 Harcourt Estate, Kibworth, Leicestershire LE8 0NE, tel: (0533) 796166, £9.95)

People with aphasia tell their stories. Profits from the book go to Action for Dysphasic Adults.

Children First: Working with Children and Disability

by Laura Middleton
(Venture Press, 16 Kent Street, Birmingham B5 6RD, £9.50)

Aimed at professionals, *Children First* is a guide to legislation affecting disabled children which also explores the needs of parents.

One in a Million - Coping with Caring

by Brenda Baalham
(The Lutterworth Press, PO Box 60, Cambridge, CB1 2NT, tel: (0223) 350865, £6.95)

As Brenda Baalham became increasingly disabled she and her husband, Chris, decided he would give up his job to care for her full time.

Written from a Christian perspective, *Coping with Caring* has a lot of practical advice,

Book news

The National Library for the Blind launched an expanded Children's Book Collection during Children's Book Week last month. Titles in braille include *The Adventures of Paddington* by Michael Bond and *Mr Wakefield's Crusade* by Booker Prize winner Bernice Reubens. Tel: 061-494 0217.

Prisoners, Patients or People?, is written and published by Rik Henderson and Mark Wallis who work with people with learning difficulties. £6 (inc p&p) from Freedom into Action, BM Box 37, London WC1N 3XX.

for example on how to get help from the government and voluntary groups.

Charity Made Clear

by Auriel James
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Making tomorrow's managers today

In the world of work, managers make things happen. Alison Rowat reports on some new schemes trying to get disabled people out of the crowd and into the boardroom



PATRICK BAGLEE

Waiting for disabled people to get the sort of education, training, and life skills required to become managers is a bit like backing the winning horse in the Derby – it's nice when it happens, but it doesn't happen very often.

Now management training schemes for disabled people are trying to shorten the odds.

Kirin Saeed has just finished a two-year arts management traineeship with Equal Arts, a charity dealing in training, advice, information and consultancy in arts and disability.

She had a Higher National Diploma in public administration and an Employment Training scheme on sound recording and journalism behind her, plus a desire to work in the arts. What she didn't have was a way in. That was solved when Kirin began the traineeship in July 1990.

Kirin, who is blind, was given a computer, voice synthesizer and printer, a braille printer (which enabled her to read her own correspondence), and a braille jotta by the Disability Advisory Service.

She was soon thrown into the managerial deep end when she had to help organise a theatre and photography project for disabled people while the main course organiser was in America. "I felt that by the end of the project I had gained a lot of experience through my own mistakes, and through having to cope with difficulties," said Kirin.

As well as practical experience, Kirin went on 14 arts management training courses including ones on working with the media, decision making, understanding accounts, and working with people.

A job at the end of it
Kirin believes one of the most positive aspects of the traineeship was that she earned a wage. "This was so important for me, for it made me feel a part of society, and people viewed me as a responsible person."

By the time her traineeship was over, Kirin had worked for four arts organisations, acquired several *curriculum vitae's* worth of skills, and done two research projects (one of which was on management traineeships for disabled people). She got a job as a project worker with Tyneside Disability Enterprise Project in August this year.

Funded by a variety of organisations such as Northern

Arts and the Arts Council of Great Britain, the traineeship was a one-off pilot scheme which Equal Arts hopes other organisations will now take up.

Kirin thoroughly recommends the challenge to others: "I found out a lot about myself and what I could achieve. I became more adaptable to situations, especially fitting into organisations and dealing with problems. I found that this was all a part of the learning process, and that this helped me to manage my time better and become more assertive."

"The way people viewed me, and took notice of my suggestions made me feel stronger and more independent. I knew I could achieve things and I did."

An important part of Kirin's training was the four-women support group who were assigned to her, two of whom were disabled.

There were times when Kirin felt she didn't have enough to do and being the only disabled trainee could get extremely lonely, despite all the support and encouragement. Another thing the scheme lacked was training in supervisory skills, which she now needs as she has a part-time secretary.

Fast tracking

The Spastics Society's "Fast Track" programme, which trains people with various disabilities, started at the same time as the Equal Arts scheme.

It is the most ambitious management training scheme ever run by a charity and is believed to be unique.

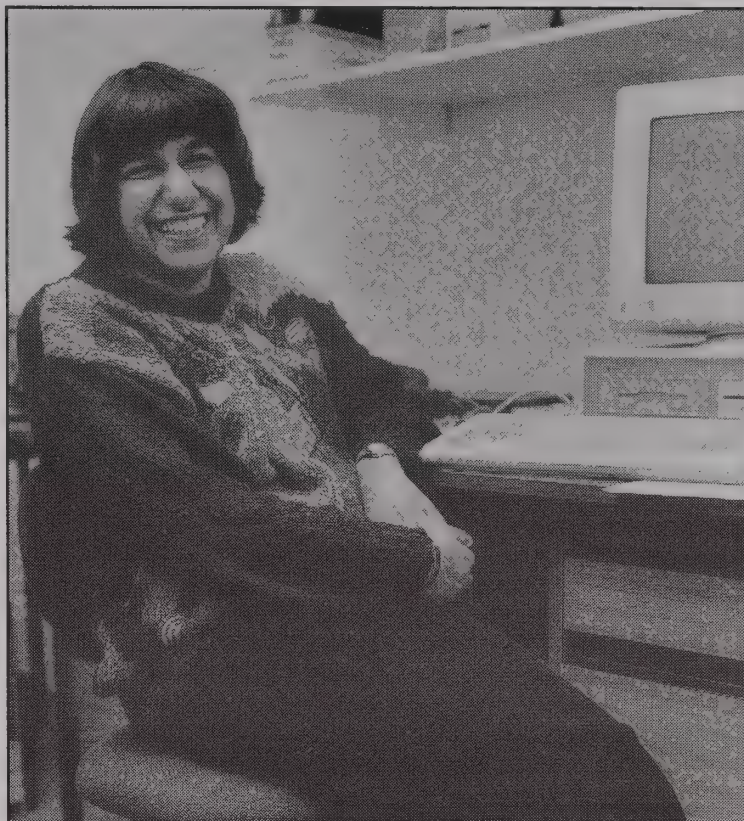
There are three main aims: to ensure a supply of managers for the future; demonstrate to other organisations and the public that people with disabilities are capable of being managers; and create "role models" for other people with disabilities.

Fast Track lasts for three years, and includes placements inside and outside the Society, "shadowing" senior management, projects, management training, working in a supervisory or management position, and further studies.

Of the original eight Fast Trackers, four have left – two to go on to management jobs elsewhere. Of those who remain, one person is doing an MA in social administration, while another is seconded to Lincolnshire Training and Enterprise Council.

Rachel Boyd is one of the two who are working within the Society. "In general terms, the Fast Track scheme offers people an excellent opportunity," she said. "There have

been difficult patches, and patches I have not enjoyed so much, but making the most of that opportunity is up to the individual. The programme is not there to make things hap-



Kirin Saeed: got a job straight away.

PETE FRYER

pen to people; it gives them the opportunity which they can take or not take."

Bridget Warr, The Spastics Society's director of quality assurance, believes the Fast Trackers have had an "enormous and beneficial" impact within the Society and outside.

With only half the original intake remaining, she accepts that the scheme has had its teething troubles. It has also been a two-way learning process: "We have very bright, very challenging individuals that ask all the questions that some of us find a little painful."

The Society hopes to begin a new Fast Track programme in 1993. Among the possible changes being considered are partnerships with Training and Enterprise Councils, making the programme two years instead of three and tying it to a national qualification.

"The scheme was a first – perhaps an international first," says Bridget Warr. "To some extent people were feeling their way. If you put it in the context of being a first it has done a very good job."

Quality costs

High quality management training is not cheap. Each Fast Track place, for example, costs around £26,000 a year. If your employer can't afford that, you could apply for one of the four places on the Coverdale Leadership

Development Programme, run by management consultants The Coverdale Organisation. Coverdale are members of the Employers' Forum on Disability.

lor training to their needs. Each training place is worth around £10,000.

Those who have had bursaries in the past include John Evans, former chairperson of the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People, Kate Nash, director of Young Arthritis Care, and Ian Hayden, currently doing a three year sports sponsorship contract with the Royal Mail as an equal opportunity consultant.

Ideal candidates

Coverdale looks at each applicant's experience of life, their enthusiasm for learning, and their aspirations. Eligibility is not dependent upon education or work history.

Kate Nash helped to select the new batch of Coverdale trainees which has just been recruited. The ideal candidate is not a high-flying, already successful person from a big organisation: "Where they're at now is not as relevant as their potential to benefit."

Now there's an idea to take the boardroom by storm.

Equal Arts, Redheugh Library, Cuthbert Street, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE8 2HT. The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Ashleigh Alibhai, The Coverdale Organisation, Dorland House, 14-16 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4PH.



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Share Your Problems

with Ann Darnbrough

Discover the spiritual bond that unites us all



What do you believe? My article about religion certainly sparked some readers into most interesting responses (DN, August).

Many of them, while expressing sincerely and deeply held beliefs, also showed considerable toleration of others people's beliefs.

As my starting point was the need to recognise we live in a multicultural society, I was disappointed not to hear from non-Christian believers - particularly Muslims and Hindus. Perhaps they will write when they recognise our genuine concern to include their views.

Nasty operators

While we're on the subject of toleration, Angela, a Congregational Church ordained minister, warns that not all "religions" are equally worthy of toleration.

She writes that she has been shattered by the evidence of some very nasty operators in the fringe cults who, in the name of religion, can wreak havoc in people's lives. Have readers any experience of these cults, either personal or through a family member?

As the people most vulnerable to these cults tend

to be those who are facing difficult decisions, or coping with great changes, disabled people may be among those who find themselves unwittingly involved.

As Angela points out, when we are lonely or troubled, we can be misled by someone professing instant friendship. Anybody who feels that they may have been exploited and who needs help can contact Family Action Information and Rescue (FAIR).

Religion of life

Religion means different things to different people. Apart from the traditional faiths, it is quite possible to have religious or spiritual feelings without belonging to a particular branch of organised religion.

Lin put it well when she wrote about the "religion of life" as symbolising an all-embracing and caring way of life.

Another reader, who is an atheist, said: "I feel I am a very spiritual person - in fact the most spiritual people I know are atheists but, no doubt, my interpretation of spiritual is different from a Christian's."

Marilyn (not her real name) is a practising Christian. She

put her views rather neatly when she said: "Religion is man's search for God; Christianity is God's search for man." She goes on to say how God has helped her as a disabled person having spina bifida.

Comfort and joy

At all times, but particularly in times of illness, she has known that God was with her "showing me His love and comfort".

Marilyn speaks very highly of The Disabled Christians' Fellowship (DCF) which she says has been a wonderful source of help and encouragement.

The DCF runs holidays, produces a monthly magazine, *The Vital Link*, and has many local branches nationwide.

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Lin Berwick, DN's telephone counsellor, herself disabled, can give other disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (0708) 477582.

Marilyn, who has been on several of their Teens and 20s weeks, said: "I can honestly say that these have been some of the best holidays I have ever had and, through them, and the DCF in general, I have gained many great friendships."

Not everyone appreciated me not giving my own views on religion - you may remember that I wanted to encourage anyone to write and not to feel inhibited by any personal views of mine.

However, Helen felt this was an "ostrich in the sand approach" and she "would never wish to hide or deny my own Christian faith and substitute it for another. I am not ashamed of my Christianity and I wish to

express it in my personality, lifestyle, and relationships with others."

Valerie, as the founder of a National Rare Disorder Group, felt differently. She said: "I would dearly love to share my faith with support group members. But I cannot use the support group to do so as it is there to offer help and support to all those who have the disorder, and I would be wrong to do anything to put people off receiving the help and information they need."

"If, through becoming friends with some of the members, they ask me to share my faith, then it is a privilege to do so, but I must not instigate that situation."

Out of place

Most people, whether church or temple goers or not, seem to enjoy meeting together with others with similar views. Where can you go if you do not subscribe to orthodox beliefs?

Ann said: "My problem was that I no longer believed the traditional doctrines of Christianity, for example the virgin birth, physical resurrection and Jesus as the unique son of God who died for my sins."

"But I still believed in a creator-God/supreme power/life force, and valued the teachings of Jesus along with those of many other spiritual leaders of all ages."

"I remained a religious person but was not now helped by any form of Churchianity feeling hypocritical and out-of-place in church."

Ann chose Unitarianism, which she describes as a religious movement in which no adherence to any dogma or creed is required.

"Persons are welcomed and appreciated as they are, being encouraged to develop along the lines their reason and conscience tell them are right, and having the freedom to find truth and inspiration from many sources."

I wonder if, like me, readers enjoy a bit of irreverence?

How about this from Alan: "Consider this - if you walk up the wall and sit on the ceiling on the thirty-third of October (sic) 1892, then all your hair will fall out! Try it! You cannot prove that it will not! That means it will! Just you wait!"

"On similar logical piffle rests most religions. This is not to deny that certain good people behave very well towards their fellow men and attribute it to a belief in God. This is not the same as religion. But then as Mark Twain said, 'It's a poor word that has only one meaning.'"

What unites us

In all this talk of differences of views and beliefs it is our innate spirituality which can be the bond which unites us whatever religion we profess, or whether we profess none.

I have much enjoyed your letters. Keep writing and let me know what subjects you would like me to write about.

Ann, who I quoted above and who wrote about Unitarianism, suggested that I change the column's title to "Share It" or "Problems and Solutions".

It is just as important that we share the solutions, and perhaps we should not lay such stress on the problems. It's good to know that someone else has the same problem, but even better to know that there is a solution. Who's going to be the first to share their solutions? Over to you, dear reader.

You can write to Ann Darnbrough c/o Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. FAIR, BCM Box 3535, PO Box 12, London WC1N 3XX. Disabled Christians Fellowship, 211 Wick Road, Brislington, Bristol BS4 4HP. Tel: (0272) 720720. Unitarian Information Department, Essex Hall, 1 - 6 Essex Street, Strand, London WC2R 3HY. Or phone Ann on (0452) 612546 between 7.30pm and 9pm.

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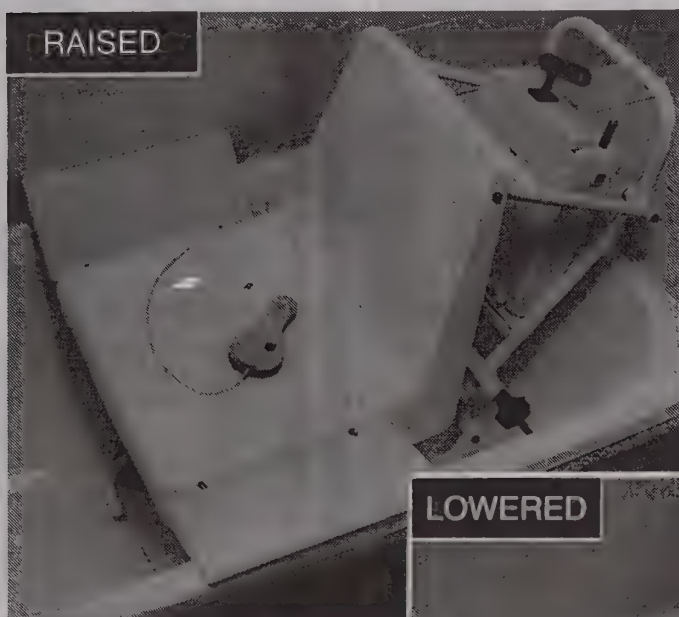
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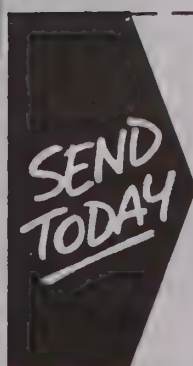
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INFO

The Holiday Care Service has produced *A Guide to Financial Help Towards the Cost of a Holiday*. Free from The Holiday Care Service, 2 Old Bank Chambers, Station Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 9HW, tel: (0293) 774535, minicom: (0293) 776943.

Do you want to be a theatre technician? Jacksons Lane Community Centre is running a foundation level course for unemployed people with physical and sensory disabilities and learning difficulties. The course starts in January 1993 and is

CACDP

free. Contact Nick Bird, Jacksons Lane Community Centre, 269a Archway Road, London N1 5AA, tel: 081-340 5226.

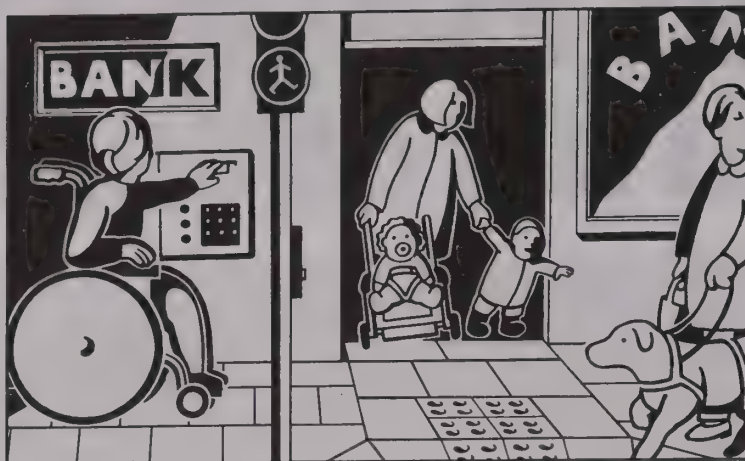
The Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People known as CACDP (logo above) has published a directory of sign language interpreters. £12 (inc p&p) from CACDP, Pelaw House, School of Education, University of Durham, Durham DH1 1TA, tel/minicom: 091-374 3607.

Learning to Touch Type is a basic keyboard course on cassette produced by the Royal National Institute and Edutape. £15 from RNIB Customer Services, PO Box 173, Peter-

borough PE2 6WS, tel: (0345) 023153.

The British Institute of Homeopathy has a limited

The Royal National Institute for Deaf People have relaunched *Soundbarrier* under the new title of *See Hear!* in co-operation with the BBC.



number of scholarships available for disabled people to train as homeopaths. For more information contact the British Institute of Homeopathy, Victor House, Norris Road, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4DS, tel: (0784) 440467.

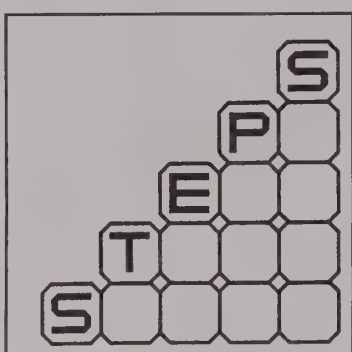
Working Together for Access, (see picture above) a manual for local access groups, is free to

£10 a year for 12 issues. Contact RNID, 105 Gower Street, London WC1E 6AH, tel: 071-387 8033, minicom: 071-383 3154.

Disability Action runs a benefit awareness project and helpline in Northern Ireland - open 10am-4pm. Tel: (0232) 491011.

STEPS, the National Association for Families of Children with Congenital Abnormalities of the Lower Limbs (see logo left), has produced *Lower Limb Deficiency*, a booklet for parents. Contact STEPS, 15 Satham Close, Lymm, Cheshire WA13 9NN.

Liberator Limited are recalling plug top battery charger units (model BCPS/2 MLQ) used in conjunction with its communication aid equipment. If you suspect you have one of these units contact Alison Haynes, shipping manager, Liberator, White Gates, Swinestead, Lincolnshire NG33 4PA, tel: (047684) 391. If modification is necessary the company



access groups or £7 for others from the Publications Section, Access Committee for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BJ.

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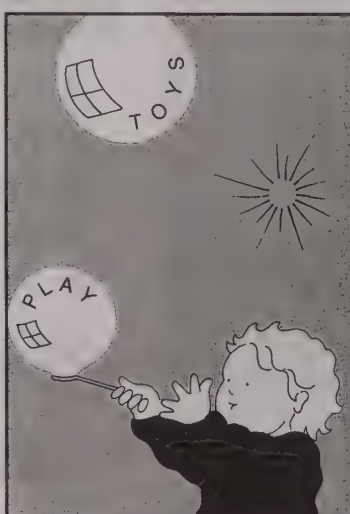
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will provide a replacement while repairs are carried out free of charge.

Helping Your Visually Impaired Child, (see picture above) an introduction to key services is a 32 page booklet from the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Free for parents, otherwise £1, contact Information Officer, RNIB Education and Leisure Division, 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA, tel: 071-388 1266 ext 2326.

WHAT'S ON

Young and Powerful, a People First and Parents in Partnership conference. 4 November at the National Childrens Bureau, London EC1. For details contact Simone Aspis, tel: 071-713 6400.

Housing & Community Care, a regional workshop. 5 November in Cambridge. Costs on a sliding scale £10-£40. Contact Rachel Scott, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB, tel: 071-637 5400.

The Way Forward - Medical and Social Developments in Epilepsy. 10 November at the South Bank Centre, London. £25. More details from British Epilepsy Association, Anstey House, 40 Hanover Square, Leeds LS3 1BE, tel: (0532) 439393.

Equal Chances for the Disabled, a one day conference. 11 November in Maidstone, Kent. £3 for disabled people, £29.38 for able-bodied people. Contact the Borough Planner and Surveyor, 13 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8HG, tel: (0622) 602345.

Access - No Limits! A one day conference on 12 November near Ipswich, Suffolk. Contact Patrick Kennedy-Cooke, Mid Suffolk Rethink on Disability, Seminar Room 2, Stowmarket Library, Milton Road North, Stowmarket IP14 1EX, tel: (0449) 770127.

Introduction to Disability Politics, a one day course. 12 November in Manchester. £40. Contact Michele Brookes, Training Project, Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People, Unit 33, Cariocca Enterprises Ltd, 2 Hellidon Close, Off Devonshire Street, Ardwick, Manchester M12 4AH, tel: 061-273 5223.

Inform '92, Meeting the Information Needs of Disabled People in Europe. A UK Presidency event at Birmingham International Convention Centre, 13-14 November. Free. Contact Simon Lawton Smith, Room 334 Wellington House, Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG, tel: 071-972 4140.

Discovering Women: Counting 500 years of Unwaged and Low-Waged Work, an international conference, 13-15 November in London WC1. Charges £3-£40 for two days. Contact Claire Glasman, WinVisible, King's Cross Women's Centre, 71 Tonbridge Street, London WC1H 9DZ, tel/minicom 071-837 7509.

Course for People with Disabilities thinking of starting their own business. Initial awareness day 14 November. Free. Details from Dow-Stoker Ltd, The Mill, Stortford Road, Hatfield Heath, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM22 7DL, tel: (0279) 730056.

Apply Pressure to get Results for disabled people over 19 who need better day and residential services, a workshop on 14 November at the Royal National Institute for the Blind in London. £10-£20. For information write to Action 19 Plus, 41 Falmouth Gardens, Redbridge, Ilford, Essex IG4 5JV.

GLAD/DaRT Taxicard Conference. 16 November at GLAD, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9. £34. Contact Orla Fox, GLAD, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA, tel: 071-274 0107.

Access-Ability, a one day conference for architects, surveyors, access officers, building users etc, organised by Bradford City Council, 17 November at the Norfolk Gardens Hotel in Bradford £75 (plus VAT). Information from John Gray, tel: (0274) 753526.

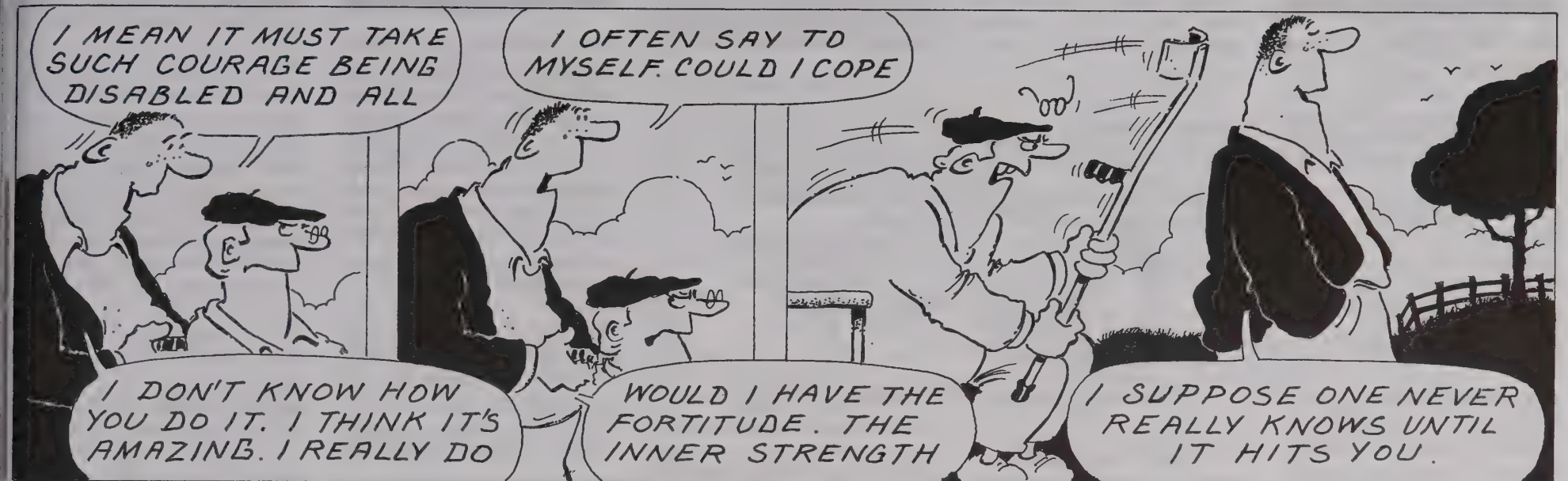
Community Care: a Challenge to the Legal Profession? 20 November at the New Connaught Rooms, London WC2. Conference programmes and booking forms available from Judith Whittingham, Conference Office, The Law Society, 50 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1SX, tel: 071-320 5791.

Drake Research Project Annual Seminar. 21 November at the Department of Electronics, York University. £15, £8 concessions. For further information contact Adele Drake, The Drake Research Project, 3 Ure Lodge, Urebank Terrace, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 1JG, tel: (0765) 604993.

Beyond the Decade, a conference to assess the impact of the UN Decade of Disabled Persons and to set the agenda for the future. 2 December at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London. Further details from Rachel Scott at RADAR, address above.

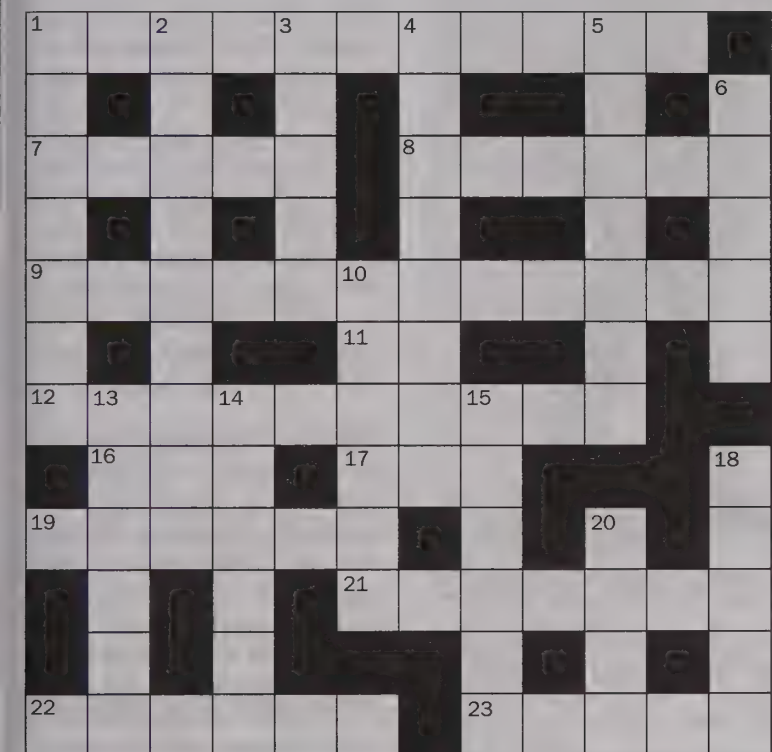
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For subscriptions details please contact Karen or Jennifer, tel: 071-383 4575 (24 hours).

The Doings of Dan Nugent ("DN" to his friends) by Rigby



DN's crossword

Answers page 31 COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

1. Like the largest land mammal (11)
7. Syndrome or area of countryside (5)
8. French town (6)
9. Hesitant in speaking (5,7)
11. Bovine beast (2)
12. Sixteenth Century astronomer (10)
16. Vegetable (3)
17. Frozen water (3)
19. Boy's name (6)
21. Race aim (anag)
22. Intelligent or shiny (6)
23. Sailing boat (5)

DOWN

1. Specific to a particular area (7)
2. Enfolded (9)
3. Hurried (5)
4. Not poisonous (3,5)
5. Grooves (7)
6. Apart (5)
10. Girl's name - sounds like anyone's name (6)
13. First batsman (6)
14. Insect (6)
15. Vegetable (6)
18. Permit (5)
20. Type of metal (4)

... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ... Answers page 31

1. Which politician resigned from the shadow cabinet because of his views on Europe?
2. Who resigned from the cabinet over his misdemeanours?
3. Which two European football teams had to replay a match in the European Cup because one of them fielded too many international players?
4. Which country narrowly voted "yes" to the Maastricht Treaty?
5. How did up to 100 people on a housing estate in Amsterdam die?
6. Which film star, who appeared in *A Room with a View*, died aged 70?
7. Which Beatles hit had its 30th anniversary?
8. For which illness was a new vaccine for children introduced?
9. In which Eastern European country did the prime minister resign?
10. Which insurance company was in difficulties, causing problems for many local authorities?

Win a £10 prize

Create-a-caption

Users of the Bristol 600 club day centre for people with physical disabilities raised £4,000 from sponsored slims, swims and weight-lifting events to set up their own gym. Are John Crossman and Jeanette Williams regretting ever raising the money? If they have the energy, what could they be saying or thinking as they work those bodies?

Send your answers to
Disability Now,
12 Park Crescent,
London W1N 4EQ
by 5 November.



ROB COUSINS

Live Art Commissions 1992/93

The Combined Arts Unit invites applications from organisations with a commitment to Live Art. The Live Art Commission scheme plans to allocate a total of £55,000 and is open to any organisation wishing to commission artists to make new work and ensure its regional distribution: this may be by offering documentation facilities, administering a tour of the finished piece, or the co-ordination of related projects, particularly marketing and education. The funds are intended as direct support to artists and promoters will be encouraged to increase access to and awareness of Live Art.

The Arts Council is keen to encourage work commissioned by, or from, Afro-Caribbean, Asian or South East Asian artists.

The deadline for applications is Monday 7 December 1992.

For further information and application forms contact Daniela Karsten, Combined Arts Unit, 14 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3NQ. Tel. 071-333 0100.

THE ARTS COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN



TREVOR PORTER

October winner

The £10 goes to Mr Flaxman from Sutton Coldfield. The man on the left is saying: "And don't put it in a disabled parking space again - OK!"

INFO

The 1992 Stannah Travel Fellowship Award (DN March) has been won by Alison Watts from Eastbury Berkshire for her entry on pre-operative help for total hip replacements.

Churchill and Friend offers a consultancy training and communications service. For further information contact the company at 53 Broom Park, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9RS, tel: 081-977 9577.

The North Staffs Special Adventure Playground (NSSAP) is open to children and young people with special needs. For further information contact the playground manager, NSSAP, Stanier Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 2SU, tel: (0782) 717612.



Getting the Best from your Wheelchair - a guide to using a basic wheelchair costs £1 (inc p&p) from RADAR, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB, tel: 071-637 5400.

Able Link is a support group set up by Keep Able to encourage young people who have recently become severely disabled to take a positive approach to disability. Contact

London Lesbian Line, the capital's telephone helpline for lesbians, now has a minicom. The helpline is open Monday and Friday, 2pm-10pm and Tuesday, Wednesday and



Opening Doors for Disabled People

Prue Turner, Keep Able Foundation, 2 Capital Interchange Way, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 0EX, tel: 081-994 6614.

Managing Your Asthma is a video in Bengali, Hindi, Gujarati, Punjabi and Urdu. Cheques for £5 (payable to Asthma Enterprises Ltd) should be sent to Managing Your Asthma, National Asthma Campaign, Providence House, Providence Place, London N1 0NT.

The British Diabetic Association (logo left) has produced a Diabetes Employment Handbook. £5 from BDA, 10 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0BD.

Where to go for Welfare Rights Advice in Camden is an advice guide available free from libraries, council offices, community centres and citizens' advice bureaux.

Thursday, 7pm-10pm. Tel: 071-251 6911, minicom: 071-253 0924.

Support Dogs (logo above) provides training for disabled people and their dogs. The dogs are taught skills to make everyday life easier for their owners. The training programme is free. Contact Linda Hams, 33 James Watt Avenue, Corby, Northants NN17 1BX, tel: (0536) 402165.

A free booklet on volunteering is now available in braille from Braille Volunteers Week, PO Box 7,000, Cardiff CF5 2YU.

MOVES

Heather Murrison is now the director of Workable. Adam Ockelford is music education adviser at the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

HELP!

Eline Blankestijn is a Dutch student doing research on environmental control systems for the Central Remedial Clinic in Dublin. She wants your views on where existing systems fail and what would you like to see controlled. Contact her c/o 2a Elmore Road, Lee on the Solent, Gosport Hampshire PO13 9DU.

The Uphill Ski Club runs ski-ing holidays for people with all kinds of disabilities (see picture below). For more information of to donate contact Elizabeth Davies, Uphill Ski



Club, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, tel: 071-636 1989.

Dolphin Radio, a community radio group in Dorset, wants to involve disabled people in its work. Contact the group via the Community Radio Association, 5 Paternoster Row, Sheffield S1 2BX or tel: (0202) 722846.

The Jaipur artificial limb was designed in India to suit the needs of people in rural areas of developing nations who may walk bare-footed, squat or sit cross-legged. The Jaipur Limb Campaign, sponsored by War on Want, raises money

for local limb fitting centres in countries suffering the effects of war. To donate contact the campaign, 37/39 Great Guildford Street, London SE1 0ES.

The Disability Resource Centre in Birmingham is looking for volunteers with and without disabilities. If you have some weekday time available contact Anne Boothe, DRC, Birtton Road Centre, Birtton Road, South Yardley, Birmingham B25 8PQ, tel: 021-789 7365, minicom: 021-789 9230.

The Lincolnshire Narrowboat Trust for the Disabled is raising funds to buy a narrow boat to provide holidays for disabled people who live in the area. If you would like to donate contact DWA King, chairman, Lincolnshire Narrowboat Trust for the Disabled, 11 Oulton Close, North Hykeham, Lincoln.

The Deaf Broadcasting Council (DBC) campaigns to make television more accessible to deaf people. It wants to encourage more deaf people to work in television and to get more programmes subtitled. Membership costs £3 a year including a newsletter. Contact Ruth Myers, Honorary Secretary, DBC, 70 Blacketts Wood Drive, Chorleywood, Hertfordshire WD3 5QQ.

Mencap's Gateway leisure clubs for people with learning disabilities in Wandsworth are looking for volunteers. Volunteers are given training and support. If you have one evening a week to spare and want to find out more contact Helen Richards at Mencap, 115 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0TJ, tel: 071-454 0454 ext 346.

Jackie Packwood, a student at the University of Glamorgan, is writing a dissertation on employment and self-employment opportunities for people with disabilities. She would like to hear your experiences and views on employment and on the Disability Working Allowance in particular. Write to her at 3 Cliff Terrace, Treforest, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan CF37 1RF.

THE NEW VOLKSWAGEN CARAVELLE BY INVATRAVEL CONVERSIONS



Various options of wheelchair access available on this super new model, including underfloor electro-hydraulic lifts, hydraulic lowering rear suspension with spring assisted alloy ramp, manual ramps etc. Disabled driver options for full independence.

Prices start from £13,950.00 on the road excluding all taxes from which disabled users are exempt.

Contact Paul Cassidy 0704-231081, 66 Knob Hall Lane, Southport PR9 9QS



Recognised Converter

THE CONSORT ARTICULATED DIVAN BED

LUXURY AT THE PUSH OF A BUTTON FOR BOTH THE INFIRM AND ABLE-BODIED AT A PRICE BOTH CAN AFFORD.



- * Choice of electrically controlled or manual versions
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* PRICES FROM £434.00 + V.A.T. *
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE TO Q.P.S.
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SUNNY TENERIFE

Fully Accessible Mar y Sol

"Brilliant" says BBC TV

Holiday Apartments

Brochure: Lynne James Ltd, 7 Overpool Road, Ellesmere Port L66 1JW. (Tel: 051-339 5316)

NORTH DEVON, self-catering cottages sleeping 4-6 (2 specially designed for wheelchairs) fully equipped and heated - linen provided. Peaceful country setting for touring Exmoor, Dartmoor and Devon Coast. Brochure from South Coombe Farm, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8QL, tel: (0884) 860302.

Relaxing Farm Holidays in breathtaking Snowdonia National Park. Stone built 18th century farmhouse, level access, en-suite bedrooms, in character converted buildings with tv, tea-making, CH. Ideal touring location - scenic drives to beaches, lakes, mountains and castles. Generous portions of fresh wholesome food. Help feed a variety of friendly animals. B&B from £15. Weekly BB and evening meal £145. Children's reductions. Tel: (0766) 87397. Small groups catered for. Awarded WTB assisted wheelchair access.

Costa Blanca - Spain

Wheelchair accessible twin bedded accommodation. Swimming pool, adapted minibus, plus various trips and outings included. For full details send for a free colour brochure to: Daystar Holidays Ltd, 26 Scotts Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5RG or telephone (0892) 525133.

Holiday facilities database is a new small computerised service which stores details of hotels in Dorset and Somerset. For £1.50, this new service has been specially designed to help you the disabled person find the right hotel. Please send only a SAE to HFD, Hill Dairy, Piddlehinton, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 7TG or telephone (0831) 240780.

Kings Sailing for the disabled. Sailing cruises for disabled and/or able bodied people. With only four guests to care for the skipper and crew can provide that most essential personal touch. Sit back and enjoy or become totally involved, the choice is yours. Most competitively priced. Details: Torn or Anne King 0305 821961. Or write to 55 Shepherds Croft, Portland, Dorset DT5 1DJ.

Disability Now is not responsible for the claims made in the advertisements it prints. Readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

MEDICAL

HAIR LOSS

The established medical lotion being used worldwide to treat thinning hair and hair loss is available for home treatment privately from Dr W Mackay, PO Box 458, Glasgow G42 8QJ. For complete information call or write to Dr Mackay. Telephone 041 423 1037. 10am-5pm Mon-Fri. Worldwide Distribution.

Did you know that *Disability Now* is a non-profit making newspaper and welcomes donations. If you can help write to *DN*, address on page 2.

Return to Teaching?

Information Day Monday 9th November 1992

If you are a DFE/DES qualified teacher and are considering a return to the classroom, let Barking and Dagenham help you on your way. Our 4 day 'Return to Teaching' course is designed to bring you up to date with the current education scene and let you decide whether or not you want to return to the profession. All DFE/DES qualified teachers are welcome to apply, but we are particularly interested to hear from people with disabilities within that group.

An Information Day to explain all about the Returners Courses will be held in the Borough on Monday 9th November, with the courses proper running from the 24-27 November 1992.

If you would like to find out more about the Information day and Returner Courses call our 24 hour Information Line on 081 594 9138 now!



BARKING & DAGENHAM

An Equal Opportunity Employer

FIND-A-FRIEND

For Find A Friend ads please send a cheque or postal order for £3 payable to *Disability Now* with your ad.

This is to help cover our costs.

31-YEAR-OLD MAN FROM JAMAICA, I lost my hearing and walking abilities 7 years ago. I began writing fiction at the same time. I would like some disabled penpals from the UK. Box No. 483.

MALE 29, able-bodied, seeks a lady who walks with calipers for friendship and possible romance. My relationship with a lady with spina bifida has broken up. I enjoy life to the full and would like to make new friends. All letters answered. Box No. 484.

CP MALE, 19, seeks able bodied/disabled female with a view to friendship, leading to possible serious relationship. I work full-time and own a car. Yorkshire area preferred but not essential. Please enclose a photo. All letters replied. Write Soon. Box No. 485.

SLIGHTLY DISABLED GUY, mid 40s, own small house, good job, company car. Needs a lady friend who would enjoy occasional meal out, going places, socialising and general companionship. Central Southern England preferred. Box No. 486.

HOOT, HOOT! That's the mating call of the partially disabled Surrey male in

There is a short waiting list for Find-A-Friend ads. Do not worry if your advert is not in immediately, it will probably appear next month.

his 40s. Disabled or able bodied females are invited to respond. Box No. 487.

CHARMING YOUNG LONDON WIDOW is waiting for a fun loving young man to come along in his car to make her life full of joy. Box No. 488.

LONELY FOREIGNER, 31-year-old student. Interested in computers. Honest, simple, seeks contact with both male and female for friendship. I am a slightly disabled man. Box No. 489.

PROFESSIONAL FEMALE (TEACHER). Not disabled. Would like to correspond/may be meet with disabled male 35-45. Must be car owner. My interests include art, cinema, eating out, music, reading and travelling. North or Midlands area. Box No. 490.

LADY 35, with back disability, cannot run but can walk a little and smile a lot. Would like to meet a kind and caring gentleman of similar age for friendship/hopefully lasting relationship. I have a daughter aged 8. Northants area. Box No. 491.

SINGLE FEMALE, 30, blonde, disabled, with a good sense of humour who is lively, sincere and loyal, seeks friendships with males of a similar age. Various hobbies include pubs, clubs, music and cinema. Box No. 492.

PROFESSIONAL FEMALE, 30, paraplegic C5/C6. Seeks an able-bodied British/European male, good looking if possible, who enjoys good food, sports, theatre, cinema and travel. For friendship with a view to a relationship. Genuine replies from non-smoker (25-35) only. Box No. 493.

ETHEL DAVIS SCHOOL. Did you attend as either a pupil or member of staff between 1972 and 1983? I am an ex-pupil and I am organising a reunion to be held next year. Get in touch to find out who I am. Box No. 494.

DISABLED'S ANSWER TO DICK-ENS, 39, would like to meet a genuine, caring able-bodied woman (28-32) with a good sense of humour for friendship

BRITISH SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISABLED

REGIONAL MANAGER (Greater London)

Three year post - salary £18,839 plus Company Car and 6% non-contributory pension

The British Sports Association for the Disabled (BSAD) provides, develops and co-ordinates opportunities in sport and recreation for people with disabilities, in partnership with other relevant agencies and is recognised by the Government in this role.

The Association are currently seeking a Regional Manager for the Greater London office.

The post holder will have the responsibility for:

1. Monitoring and controlling budgets, policies and regional staff.
2. Securing funding for programme areas.
3. Liaising with relevant agencies
4. Promoting, developing and assisting with programme areas.

Applicants should have a knowledge of the disability sports field, good communication skills, and experience of budget control, staff management and presentations to Governing Bodies/relevant agencies.

The successful applicant will compliment a team of three other officers including a Membership/Event Officers, School/Community Officer and a Secretary.

Closing date for application: 16th November 1992

Interviews will be conducted on 26th November 1992.

BSAD are working towards being an Equal Opportunity employer and applications are actively invited from all areas of the community.

For an application form regarding the above position, please contact BSAD, Solecast House, 13-27 Brunswick Place, London N1 6DX. For an informal discussion contact Gordon Neale or Richard Hunt, tel: 071-490 4919.

SOUTH BIRMINGHAM HEALTH AUTHORITY

Information Service on Disability

ADVICE WORKER/COUNSELLOR

SALARY: £9,837 - £11,969

Required for new post in developing service. Responsible for information provision, advice work and counselling.

Applicants should have counselling skills and sound knowledge of disability-related issues. Good communication and organisational skills essential. People with disabilities are actively encouraged to apply and the Centre provides a fully accessible environment.

Job description and application form available from K Holsey, General Office, Oak Tree Lane Centre, Oak Tree Lane, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6JA. Tel: 021 627 1627 ext 52059.

Closing Date: 8th December 1992

South Birmingham Health Authority is committed to Equal Opportunities and actively discourages smoking at work.

leading to possible relationship. I'm mostly independent and live in North London. I have arthritis. I enjoy listening to Capital Gold and hard rock LPs and watching videos. I like occasional day outings. Non-smoker. Photo appreciated. All letters answered. Box No. 495.

DISABLED MAN, late 50s, bad speller, mobile with spinal arthritis. Many interests. Would like to meet a kind, considerate lady 45 to 55 who is as daft as I am and would like to take on a grumpy, lonely old man for close friendship. 30 miles radius of Aspatia, Cumbria. Full details of my medical condition when required. I will answer all letters that have your full details and photo. Box No. 496.

ENERGETIC DISABLED LADY, young 40s, Hampshire area. Seeks able-bodied male of similar age for friendship and outings. Must have a sense of humour and love animals. Box No. 497.

DISABLED MALE, 25, paraplegic due to accident. Completely independent but lonely living on my own. Would like to meet able-bodied female for friendship and possible romance. Preferably a non-smoker. Age 24 to 28. Box No. 498.

MALE 40, walks with crutches because of polio, but very mobile. I would like to meet a genuine, caring, disabled or able-bodied lady 25-40 for a serious relationship with fun and happiness. I am financially secure, have my own flat and car. My interests are music, concerts and eating out. I will not drive you crazy but I will care for you. I cannot cope with a wheelchair user because of my disability. Box No. 499.

To reply to a Find-A-Friend indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 2.



For people with disabilities. Be assertive and join Handicate. The Wellington Centre 52 Chevallier Street Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB. Telephone: (0473) 226950

Disabled? Carer? Lonely? Choose your own ideal relationship. Mutual Essential Links Bulletin, PO Box 49, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 5HL. Tel. 0606 49093.

DATES FOR THE DISABLED - A BETTER LIFE - 36 Park Grove, Edgware, Middx. HA8 7SJ Tel. 081-958 1095 081-958 9657

Friends in Need Disabled Partners

Being disabled need not be a handicap. Are you lonely, bored and longing to make new friends?

WE CAN HELP - CALL US

We specialise in establishing new friends and relationships for all able bodied and disabled people nationwide.

WE CAN HELP - CALL US NOW

081 676 0396

TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/ COURSES please contact the Advertisement Manager, Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Limited, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Tel: 071-252 1362. Fax: 071-237 8019.

HARINGEY ON-CALL SUPPORT SERVICE requires a SERVICE CO-ORDINATOR

SALARY: £15,540 (pro rata) for 25 hours per week on an initial fixed-term contract basis. This is a user-led service providing short-term and emergency practical support, 24 hours, 7 days a week. The successful applicant must be highly motivated and have the ability to manage and supervise a team of support workers; provide advocacy and support to service users; develop and promote the service and its philosophy, including fundraising. (S)he must be committed to equal opportunities.

We are seeking to employ a disabled co-ordinator in line with the user-led philosophy of the service. However, applications from non-disabled people will be considered. Job sharing welcomed. Further details from: Haringey On-Call Support Service, c/o SHAD, Haringey, Winkfield Resource Centre, 33 Winkfield Road, Wood Green, London N22. **Closing Date: 27th November 1992.**

**HACKNEY
ADULT EDUCATION
INSTITUTE**

**Disability Equality Training Project
(Inner Cities Partnership Funded)**

A recognised Disability Equality Trainer required to work - 3 hours per week for academic year 1992/93. To plan, organise and be involved in course delivery for people with disabilities and disability equality training.

Further details (available in Braille, large print and on tape) application form available from Gwen Prescott, Deputy Senior Administrative Officer, Woodberry Down Branch, Woodberry Grove, London N4 2SH. Rate of pay Grade 5 £15.22 per hour.

Closing date Monday 23rd November 1992, 5.00pm.

EVALUATOR

£5,600 p.a.

PLANET is an exciting national information resource based at Harperbury Hospital, Radlett, Hertfordshire being developed by SCF, Mencap and the Spastics Society working with disabled people to increase opportunities for play, leisure and recreation.

We are looking for an evaluator with research experience, knowledge and experience of disability issues, good communication skills and a strong commitment to equal opportunities. We would particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities.

You will be responsible for evaluating Planet's contribution towards ensuring that people with disabilities have the opportunity to choose from a wide range of play, leisure and recreation services.

For further details please write to UK Recruitment, SCF, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD. Details are available in large print, or on audio tape (by request).

Closing date: 20th November 1992.

SCF aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

**CROSSWORD
ANSWERS**

ACROSS: 1. Elephantine
7. Downs 8. Nantes
9. Mealy-mouthed 11. Ox
12. Copernicus 16. Pea
17. Ice 19. Cedric
21. America 22. Bright
23. Yacht
DOWN: 1. Endemic
2. Enwrapped 3. Hasty
4. Non-toxic 5. Notches
6. Aside 10. Monica
13. Opener 14. Earwig
15. Celery 18. Grant
20. Zinc

**NEWS QUIZ
ANSWERS**

1. Bryan Gould 2. David Mellor 3. Stuttgart (the culprits) and Leeds United
4. France 5. An aeroplane crashed into the tower block where they lived. 6. Denholm Elliott. 7. Love Me Do
8. Meningitis 9. The Ukraine 10. Municipal Mutual Insurance

CONFERENCES

INTEGRATION: contexts and debates

Subject: Disabled people in FE
Date: Friday 11 December 1992
Speakers: Jeannie Sutcliffe & Margaret Mordin
Venue: North Warwickshire College, Nuneaton
Contact: Sheila Ford 0827 53996



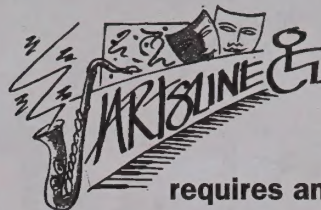
Computer systems for people who are blind, or visually impaired.

Drop in to our free advice shop and demonstration day in:

**The Trinity Suite,
Post House Hotel, Cambridge
Wednesday 25th November
10:00am-7:00pm**

For information call 0905 754577

Deadlines for December issue: booking by 6 November, camera ready artwork/copy by 10 November.



London's Information and Advice Service for Disabled People on Arts and Entertainment

ARTSLINE

requires an Assistant Publicity Officer

S/he will work under the supervision of the Publicity Officer on all aspects of Artsline's Publicity.

Salary: £8,648 gross per annum for a 3 day week.

Job description and application form (in print and tape) available from: ARTSLINE, 5 Crowndale Road, London NW1 1TU.

Tel: 071-388 2227 (Voice and Minicom). Fax: 071-383 2653.

Closing date for applications: 12 November 1992.

ARTSLINE is an Equal Opportunities Employer. Only Disabled People need apply. The workspace is fully wheelchair accessible.

Disability Now

The campaigning newspaper for people with all kinds of disabilities

Please SUPPORT DN by SUBSCRIBING NOW

DISABILITY NOW SUBSCRIPTION ORDER

Please return to Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, FREEPOST 17 London W1E 3HU with your remittance made payable to DISABILITY NOW. No stamp is needed.

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ADDRESS _____

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Disability Now is a non-profit making publication. It is sent free to disabled people on low income if they let us know.

* Multiple copies
2 copies £24, 3 copies £36, 4 copies £48, 5 copies £60, 6 copies £72,
10-50 copies £100, 51-100 copies £125. One year (12 issues) only.

Save the Children



BBC TELEVISION

Trainee Assistant Producers

Music & Arts Department

Would you like the chance of training to be a Television Assistant Producer?

Music and Arts Department, Television, who produce programmes such as *The Late Show*, *Arena*, *Omnibus*, *Bookmark* and a wide range of music programmes, are able to offer the following training opportunities to start in January 1993:

A nine month training opportunity for a Disabled Person.

(Ref: 11065/DI)

A nine month training opportunity for a person from an Asian, African, Afro-Caribbean or Chinese background.*

(Ref: 11066/DI)

The training will take place with one or more of the above programme areas. At the end of the training, you will be able to compete for vacancies, although employment is not guaranteed.

You should have a keen interest in, and enthusiasm for music and/or arts. You should also have the ability to communicate these in a clear and coherent way. A degree (or some other Higher Education qualification) and/or some kind of journalism or equivalent media/arts experience is required. You should also be able to demonstrate visual flair and imagination. You should be able to operate effectively as part of a team and be willing to work outside office hours and away from home as necessary.

As well as submitting an application form, candidates will be asked to complete a number of short exercises.

Salary: c£17,000 p.a. (pro-rata) whilst training. Based West London

*This traineeship is advertised under section 37 of the Race Relations Act 1976.

For an application form contact (quote appropriate ref.) BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, PO Box 7000, London W12 7ZY. Tel: 081-749 7000 Minicom 081-752 5151.

Application forms to be returned by November 20th.

WORKING FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Win all weather protection worth £500!

You can look forward to winter if you win the super-warm, water-proof prizes in this unique Simplantex/Disability Now competition

Simplantex, a family business established in 1956, is the largest supplier of wheelchair accessories in the country. Six DN readers, three manual and three electric wheelchair users, can win winter cover-ups (in navy or country green) from the latest range, launched this month.

HOW TO ENTER

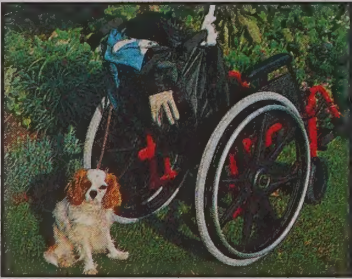
All you have to do is make as many words (four letters or more, NO PLURALS) as possible out of:

S I M P L A N T E X

You get one point for each four letter word, two points for each five letter word, three for a six letter word and so on. Make a separate list for each group (see right). Then add up your score, write it at the bottom of each list, and add up your total score.



First prize: a complete all-weather protection system worth £120. The manual wheelchair user will get the cosy-sit (above right) and below-the-knee poncho (not shown) both in water-proof waxed cotton with brushed cotton lining, plus an easy-access, water-proof bag (below) and waterproof gauntlets. For the electric wheelchair user, there is a scooter cape of the same material with a clear panel to view controls, an all-purpose riding cape (above far left), gauntlets, and a night storage cover with elasticated base. (not shown). Second prize: cosy-sit and bag, or all-purpose cape and night storage cover. Third prize: waxed cotton wheely mac (above left) or scooter cape.



name, address and telephone number to:

Four letters	Five letters	Six letters	Seven letters
	PLANT		

Oliver Askaroff,
Managing Director,
Simplantex Healthcare Ltd,
55a Willowfield Road,
Eastbourne,
East Sussex, BN22 8BP.
Closing date 23 November.
Winners will be notified by

30 November. The first prize winners will be presented with their prizes and have their pictures published in Disability Now January. Other prize winners will be mentioned and receive their prizes by post. The judge's decision is final.



The Ford Escort has always been one of the best selling cars in the Motability scheme, and the latest Ford Escort should be no exception.

Although only slightly wider than its predecessor,

it's considerably roomier inside. Shallower sills and taller doors that open wider, make getting in and out easier, particularly when you have awkward items to carry, such as a foldaway wheelchair.

When we designed the new Escort, we considered every kind of family.

Height adjustable front seat belts ensure all occupants travel comfortably, and there's also a remote release (on L models and above) for the new lower and wider tailgate.

Another creature comfort is power assisted steering, available for the first time as an option (1.6 litre engine models only).

For more information fill in the coupon opposite, or call freephone 0800 252 983.

Alternatively, contact one of our Motability specialists (you'll find one at almost every Ford main dealership). They'll also be able to give you details of the special Escort for disabled drivers.

Remember, you don't have to be a disabled driver

to qualify for the Motability scheme. In fact you don't have to be disabled at all. If you have a friend or someone in your family who is disabled you simply have to be nominated by them to act as their 'chauffeur'.

Ford Motor Company, FREEPOST, Dept EWA,
St. Mary's Green, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3BR.
Please send me the Motability scheme details.

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____ B

